MARCH
1955

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6K7*	10/-	12SJ7*	10/-
6K7G	7/6	12SK7*	10/-
6L7*	10/-	12SR7*	10/-
6L7G	7/6	807	25/-
6N7*	10/-	832A	70/-
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955 American 10/-

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* Metal Tube.

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1K7	7/6	7G7	5/-
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1S5	10/-	7W7	5/-
2A3	10/-	7Y4	5/-
2X2	10/-	12AH7	10/-
3A4	10/-	12C8	10/-
3Q5	10/-	12J5	10/-
6AC7	10/-	12SG7	10/-
6AG5	15/-	12SQ7	10/-
6BE6	15/-	807	10/-
6C4	12/6	809	50/-
6C6	7/6	813	60/-
6F8	10/-	815	50/-
6H6	5/-	829	60/-
6J5GT	10/-	832	50/-
6N7	10/-	956	10/-
6N8	15/-	1625	15/-
6SA7	10/-	1626	10/-
6SH7	5/-	1629	10/-
6SH7GT	4/-	2051	10/-
6SJ7	10/-	7193	5/-
6SK7	10/-	9002	10/-
6SL7	15/-	9003	10/-
6SN7	10/-	9004	10/-
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1777.5 Kc.	6200 Kc.	7100 Kc.	8183.5 Kc.
2050 Kc.	7010 Kc.	7109 Kc.	8317.2 Kc.
2075 Kc.	7012 Kc.	7118 Kc.	8318 Kc.
2716 Kc.	7013 Kc.	7121 Kc.	8320 Kc.
3482.5 Kc.	7020 Kc.	7125 Kc.	8488 Kc.
3503 Kc.	7021 Kc.	7126 Kc.	8500 Kc.
3509 Kc.	7022 Kc.	7130 Kc.	9125 Kc.
3511 Kc.	7023 Kc.	7134 Kc.	10 Mc.
3512 Kc.	7031 Kc.	7145 Kc.	10.511 Mc.
3515 Kc.	7032 Kc.	7156 Kc.	10.524 Mc.
3516 Kc.	7032.6 Kc.	7163 Kc.	10.530 Mc.
3528 Kc.	7048 Kc.	7174 Kc.	10.536 Mc.
3532 Kc.	7052 Kc.	7179 Kc.	10.544 Mc.
3539.3 Kc.	7062 Kc.	7202.3 Kc.	10.546 Mc.
3634 Kc.	7063 Kc.	8000 Kc.	10.563 Mc.
3640 Kc.	7064 Kc.	8017.5 Kc.	11 Mc.
3675 Kc.	7068 Kc.	8027 Kc.	12.803 Mc.
4285 Kc.	7072 Kc.	8028.5 Kc.	14.020 Mc.
4600 Kc.	7089 Kc.	8092 Kc.	14.105 Mc.
5000 Kc.	7090 Kc.	8155.71 Kc.	14.325 Mc.
	7093 Kc.	8171.250 Kc.	14.322 Mc.

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VK3WI: Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7146 Kc. and 2000 hours EST 50 and 144 Mc. No frequency checks available from VK3WI. Intrastate working frequency, 7133 Kc.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3573 and 7146 Kc., 51.016 and 146.25 Mc. Intrastate working frequency 7135 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

VK4WI: Sundays, 0900 hours EST, simultaneously on 3560 and 14342 Kc. 3560 Kc. channel is used from 0915 hours to 1015 hours each Sunday for the W.I.A. Country hook-up. No frequency checks available.

VK5WI: Sundays, 1000 hours SAST, on 7146 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5MD and VK5WI by arrangements on all bands to 50 Mc.

VK6WI: Sundays, 0830 hours WAST, on 7146 Kc. No frequency checks available.

VK7WI: Sundays, at 1000 hours EST, on 7146 Kc and 146.5 Mc. No frequency checks are available.

AMATEUR RADIO

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Melbourne, C.1.

EDITORIAL

★

OUR WANING HERITAGE

We have a heritage in our fast dwindling Amateur short wave bands which is crying out for protection—a heritage that wasn't handed down to us either, but was hewn from the unknown cosmos, developed, and pioneered by the early Amateurs, many of whom have now passed beyond the vale.

Could we say today that we have honestly protected our heritage? In a manner of speaking—yes, we have. But the encroachment into our bands by Commercials and whittling of frequencies by International Conventions and the demands of prospective Television requirements is something so vital that each and every licensed Amateur should—and will have to—shoulder some responsibility.

Warnings have been given in these columns many times for those who interest themselves in reading them. These same warnings have been printed in every language under the sun in every Amateur Society publication, so **"Amateur Radio"** is not saying something for the sake of having something to say. **Your bands are fast disappearing!**

It is not the policy of the Wireless Institute of Australia to criticise its members or any other licensed Amateur. **But it is becoming impossible for a few stalwarts to protect this heritage!**

To protect what's left it has been said that we cannot now expect to rely on the two larger world societies to represent Australia at the next International Telecommunications Conference—whenever that might be. **We must have our own representative there!**

To make this possible, the W.I.A. Annual Convention has been cancelled for three years—three years during which funds were to be saved against the day when the expense of sending a delegate would have to be met. The time is fast approaching when the finance will be wanted.

Even before that, it might be possible to hold a Region III. Conference (this has been proposed for 1956 during the Olympic Games) so that a delegate could proceed with the backing of Region III. countries.

But all the backing in the world—financial or otherwise—will go for nought if the whole structure of Amateur Radio cannot justify its existence in the eyes of those powerful Commercial interests that sit in Geneva or elsewhere, devoid of all sentimental attachments and hardened by the political pressure which drives them to the conference table to do nothing else but procure frequencies to satisfy the hunger of the fast growing Commercial services.

We must justify our existence! It will be no good putting the blame on the Institute and those of its members who give of their precious spare time to battle for what we have left. All the backroom homework and negotiation won't hold those bands if they are not being used. **And let it be said right here and now—"The bands are not being used!"** They are not being used to a degree that is fast becoming frightening.

The Authorities talk about it and ring their hands as they feel the pressure being brought against them for more frequencies, more frequencies and yet more frequencies. They hear kilocycles of bandwidth almost devoid of signals hour after hour and day after day.

The Amateurs talk about it—to each other! They blame everyone and everything but themselves. BUT THEY ARE TO BLAME. **No one else can take the blame. They don't use the bands. Listen on any band almost any time, do that mental arithmetic, then make up your mind to spend an hour or two per week away from the work bench or what-have-you to populate your bands—or perhaps ultimately perish.**

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.

THE CONTENTS

WOBBULATORS—SWEEP GENERATORS

BY E. CORNELIUS,* VK6EC

THIS colloquialism has become deeply entrenched in the radioman's vocabulary, and is particularly apt. The wobbulator is a frequency modulated oscillator, covering a specific frequency range which, when used with a c.r.o., will plot the frequency response of a component, or all or part of a complete audio, video or radio frequency set up.

In the basic form the wobbulator output is a portion of the audio or radio frequency spectrum varying repetitively as a known function of time. The constant amplitude f.m. signal is fed to the unit being tested. The output of the unit is rectified by a suitable detector, and used for vertical deflection of the c.r.t. Horizontal deflection is taken from, or synchronised with, the same waveform used to "wobble" the oscillator.

As the frequency is caused to vary, and the c.r.t. spot moves horizontally, its vertical deflection is proportional to the response of the equipment under test. The resulting trace on the c.r.t. screen is an amplitude/frequency response curve. By sweeping the desired range repeatedly at a low rate, the plot is repeated continuously, persistence of vision overcoming flicker and allowing detailed examination of the response curve. Thus the response curve can be varied while being watched, and the effect of adjustments are visible as they are being made.

F.M. OSCILLATORS F.m. oscillator circuits are legion, but for sweep generator service, some limitations apply. In general, the range swept is a large percentage of the centre frequency (wide deviation). For test equipment, a minimum of tubes is the aim. So various wide deviation f.m. oscillator circuits have been developed. Three types the author has in use will be described fairly fully. These are:—

Reactance tube†
Miller tube†
Johnson Wobbulator‡

A fourth, an R/C type, will be described briefly.¶

Reactance Tube.—In this type, an L/C oscillator of any type using parallel resonance has its tuned circuit shunted by a tube. This tube's circuitry is such that it simulates an inductance or a capacitance, which is variable under the control of the sweeping signal. An inductance in shunt with a tuned circuit will raise its resonant frequency, a capacitance will lower it.

The simplified circuits are shown in Figs. 1a and 1b. In 1a the reactance tube looks like an inductance, in 1b a capacitance. Components R and C, from plate to grid, have impedances such that the grid is fed almost 90° out of phase with the plate. At high frequencies, about 3.5 Mc. for orthodox tubes, the resistor becomes more and more like a capacitor. The 90° is not maintained, and the circuit operation is impaired until the oscillator output is severely amplitude modulated.

A circuit due to Helfrich§ raises the upper frequency limit to about 30 Mc., a simplified circuit being shown in Fig. 2.

In this circuit, the 90° phase shift is obtained in two steps of 45°, using tube capacitance as the reactive elements. With it, he obtained a linear deviation of 5 Mc. at a centre frequency of 30 Mc., using 6AK5s. I adapted the circuit for a video wobbulator to obtain a deviation of 2 Mc. at a centre frequency of 11 Mc., using a 6AC7 and 6SH7s.

Miller Tube.—This method relies on the Miller effect in an amplifier tube, whereby an amplifier with purely resistive plate load shows a pure capacitance grid/cathode. This capacitance varies with the amplification being approximately equal to $-C_{gp}(1 + A)$ where A is the stage gain. If the tube is modulated, the capacitance varies, rising as the grid runs positive, and falling to approximately C_{gp} as the tube reaches cut-off. See Fig. 3.

As long as the plate load is a pure resistance at the oscillator frequency, the added impedance across the tuned circuit is a pure capacitance. If the anode load is capacitive, the input impedance has a resistive component, which varies also, shunting the tuned circuit with a variable resistance.

To minimise this, as the frequency is raised, the anode load of the Miller tube must be reduced. Above about 6 Mc., this effect causes severe amplitude modulation of the oscillator output, but up to this frequency, it is the easiest and simplest to get to work.

As the grid of the Miller tube is accepting the full r.f. potential of the tuned circuit, the bias of this tube must be sufficiently high to prevent grid current, or the sweep signal will be completely swamped by grid leak bias, and lose control. The writer uses a 6V6 biassed to about —28 volts, for an oscillator using a 6SH7. A deviation of 150 Kc. at 1.75 Mc. is quite easily obtained.

Johnson Wobbulator.—This is a most ingenious circuit, which uses only one tube, but a variation using two tubes has proved less tricky to get going. See Fig. 4.

Very wide percentage deviations are obtained, up to 40%, but I have found operation above a rest frequency of one megacycle rather erratic. Below this frequency it is a honey.

Its principle of operation lies in that the whole of the cathode r.f. current flows through the cathode coil, and only that part to the plate flows through the other. The coils are very closely coupled and the polarity is such that as the anode draws a greater share of the current, the effective inductance is reduced, and the frequency rises.

Current sharing between anode and screen is under the control of the suppressor, whence the sweep is injected. An EF50 seems an ideal tube, although I have used a 6AC7, and 6SJ7. I obtain a linear deviation of 400 Kc. at a rest frequency of 1 Mc. For a full description of the operation of the circuit, see reference ‡.

R/C Oscillator.—This circuit is a four tube ring oscillator giving four 90° phase shifts. Special tubes seem necessary, as 6SN7s and ECC35s were not satisfactory. The circuit gives a 10 Mc. deviation at 60 Mc. centre frequency. See Fig. 5.

SWEEP For simplicity, a sine wave sweep—the a.c. mains—may be used, but it has three disabilities.

1. The sweep rate is rather high (50 c.p.s.). The resolution obtainable from a sweep oscillator is approximately equal to the square root of the total sweep per second. Thus 1 Mc. swept 50/sec., is a total sweep of 50 Mc./sec. and the resolution is the square root of this, approx. 7 Kc. Variations of response over less than this range will not be resolved. I use a sweep of 16⅔ per sec., synchronised to ½ mains frequency. This is quite high enough to avoid flicker.

2. Sweep rate is fastest at the centre of the screen where the best resolution is usually wanted. At this point the sine wave is crossing the zero axis, and is changing at its greatest rate. However, the frequency plots will still be linear, as the f.m. oscillator is being frequency modulated at the same rate as the sine wave scan. I prefer to use a sawtooth.

3. The trace is displayed both left-to-right and right-to-left. There is some delay in the change in frequency, and the phasing of the two sweeps—c.r.o. and wobbulator—has to be accurate to superimpose the two traces. Increasing the frequency range swept increases the delay, and necessitates a phasing control.

OSCILLATORS To obtain reasonably wide deviation using any of the L/C oscillators, the tuned circuit must be of low C, and hence has lower inherent frequency stability than is desirable. Any undesired hum or signal in the sweep will also modulate the f.m. oscillator. Thus a regulated power supply is virtually a must, although I find that a glow tube regulator is usually good enough.

MARKERS Calibration of the frequency scale is easy, if another oscillator of good frequency calibration is available. The signal from this oscillator, or signal generator, is fed into the detector, after the unit under test. The swept signal passed by the unit being tested, and the signal from the generator are mixed in the detector, to cause a blip, or widening of the display trace, at the frequency where the two signals zero-beat.

It is not good practice to feed the marker into the unit under test, as the marker may fall in a part of the curve where attenuation is high, and the blip not be discernible, and increase of marker input may overload the tested

* C/o. N.B.S. Transmitter 6WA, Wagin, W.A.
† "Radiotron Designers' Handbook," p.1157.
‡ Johnson, "Single Valve F.M. Oscillators," "Wireless World," April, May, 1949.
¶ Foot, "V.H.F. Panoramic Receiver," "Wireless World," Sept., 1953.
§ Helfrich, "Wide Deviation Reactance Modulator," "Electronics," April, 1948.

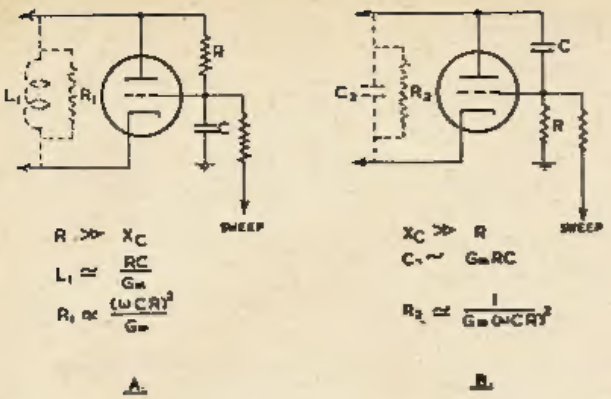


FIG. 1 - REACTANCE TUBE

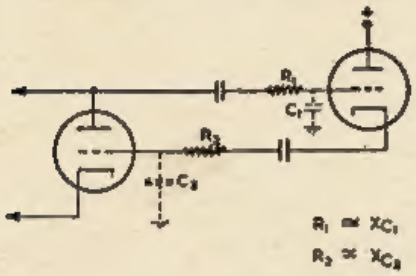


FIG. 2 – HELFRICH REACTANCE TUBE

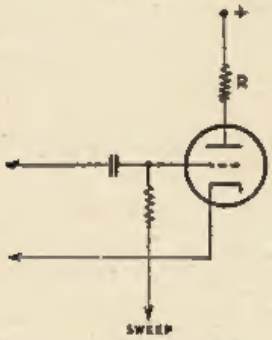


FIG. 3 – MILLER TUBE

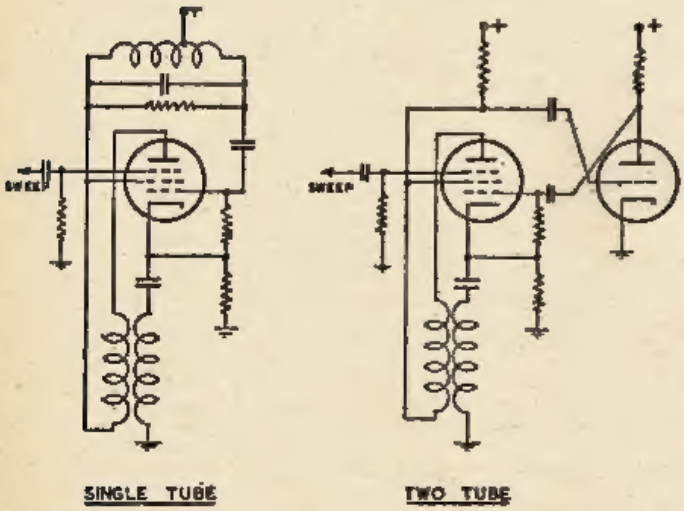


FIG. 4 – JOHNSON WOBBULATOR

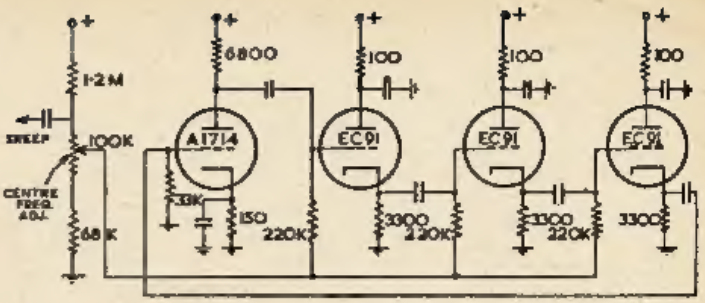


FIG. 5 – R/C RING OSC.

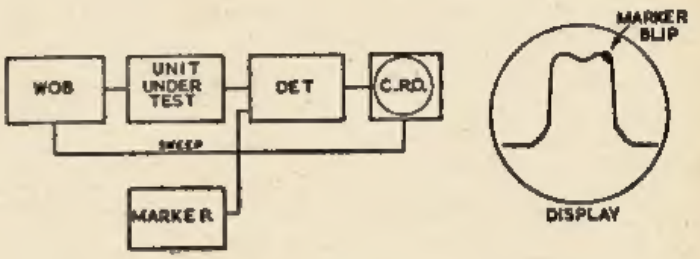
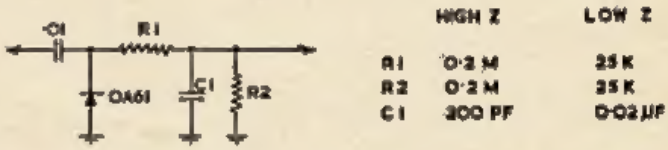


FIG. 6



	HIGH Z	LOW Z
R1	0·2 M	25 K
R2	0·2 M	25 K
C1	200 PF	0·02 µF

FIG. 7 – DETECTORS

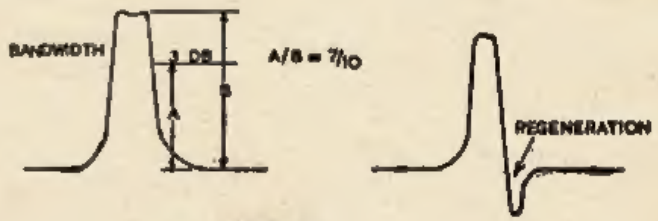


FIG. 8

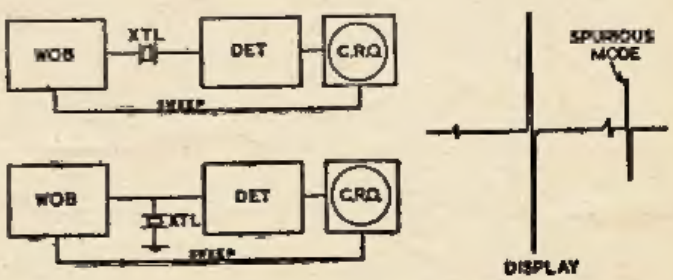


FIG. 9 – CRYSTALS

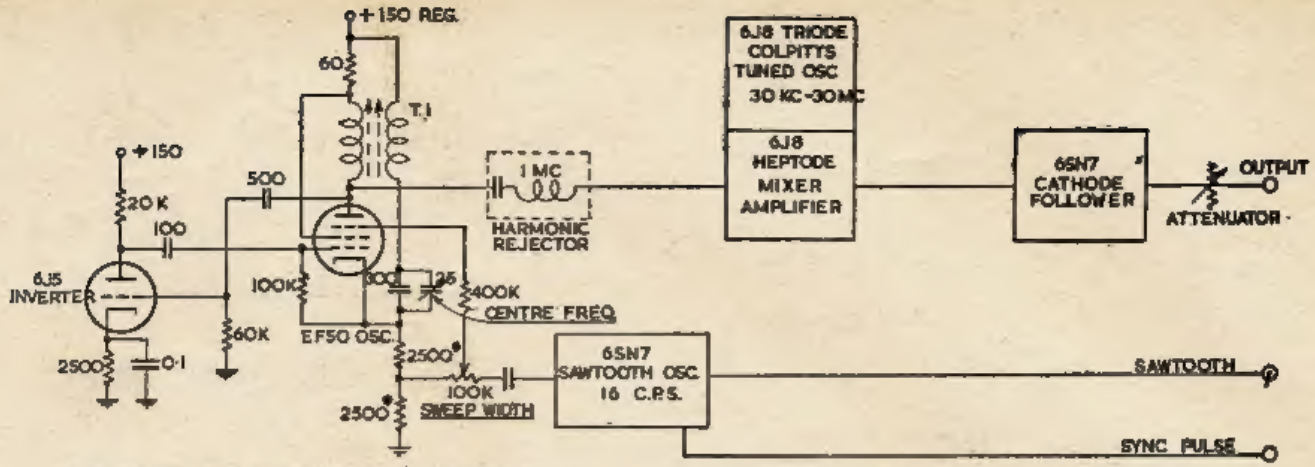


FIG. 10 1 MC. ± 200 KC. F.M. OSC OF ALIGNMENT OSCILLATOR

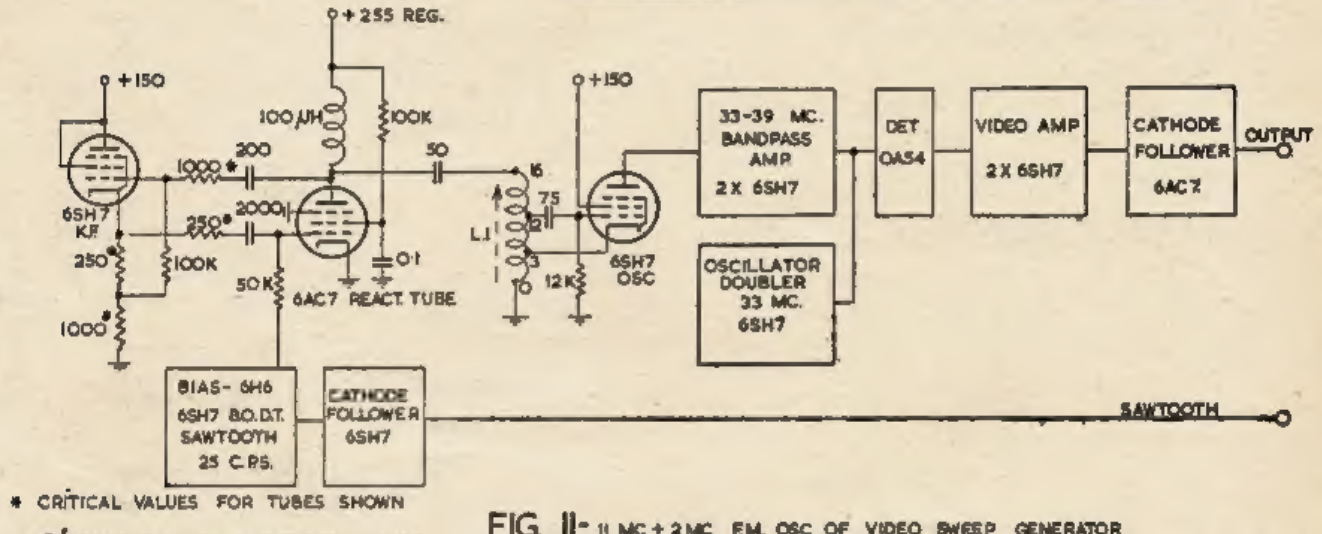


FIG. 11 - 11 MC ± 2 MC F.M. OSC OF VIDEO SWEEP GENERATOR

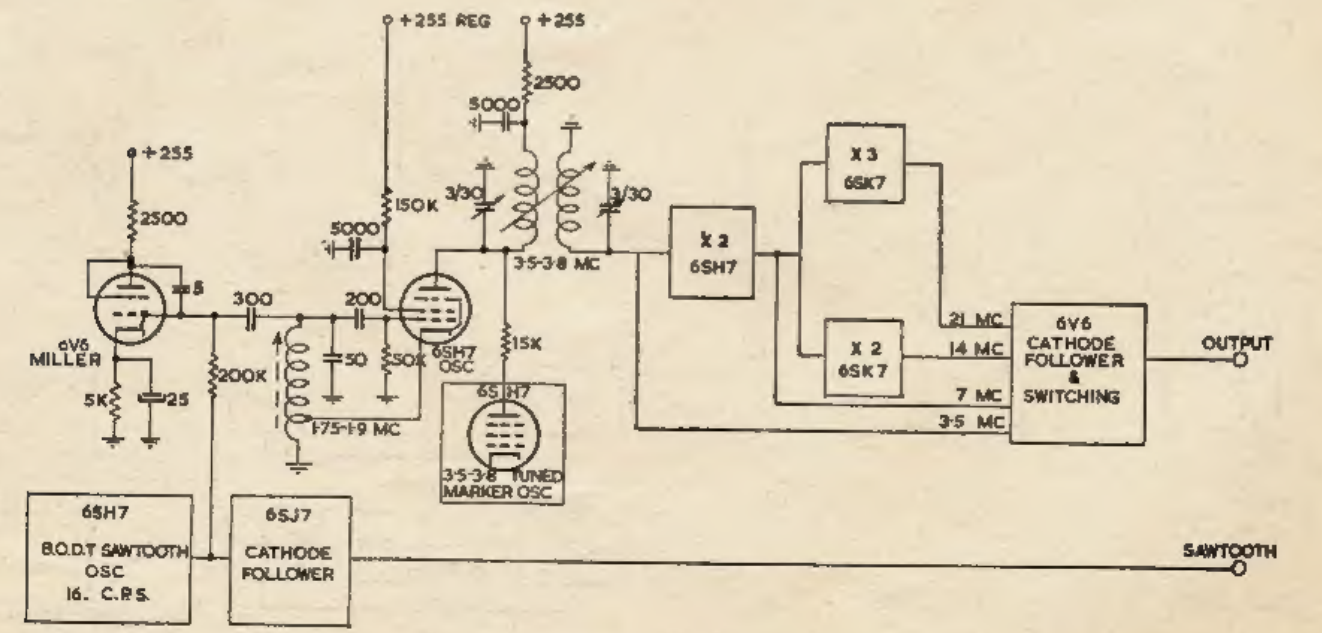


FIG. 12 - 1·75-1·9 MC F.M. OSC OF AMATEUR SWEEP GENERATOR

unit. Any part of the curve may be identified by tuning the marker so that the blip is at the point desired. The frequency can be read off the marker generator calibration. See Fig. 6.

DETECTORS The most suitable is a germanium diode with an R/C filter, in a probe. The input impedance of the detector should be suited to the test point, and should load it as little as possible. A suggested circuit is shown in Fig. 7. Thermionic diodes are not very satisfactory, as the very low signal levels often available from the detector are masked by hum from the heater supply, particularly when using the high impedance probe.

APPLICATIONS **Receivers.** — For receiver alignment feed wobbulator into antenna terminals at a rest frequency in the desired band, and set the deviation to about 30 Kc.

The whole receiver can then be aligned to give maximum sensitivity (height of response peak), desired bandwidth (width across 3 db points). See Fig. 8. No detector is required. The signal can be taken from the loudspeaker, headphone jacks, or from second detector output, for the c.r.t. vertical amplifier.

If the receiver is accurately calibrated, bandwidth can be measured by tuning the receiver itself so that a reference line on the c.r.t. is used to mark the 3 db points, as the receiver is tuned, and the display moves horizontally. The receiver calibrations will give the bandwidth.

I.F. Transformers or I.F. Amplifiers.— Feed the wobbulator, with rest frequency at the i.f., into the primary of the first i.f. transformer, or the mixer, via a very small capacitor (about 10 pF.). Connect probe to secondary of last i.f. transformer through another small capacitor. Adjust tuning (and coupling if adjustable) to frequency and bandwidth desired. A very finely calibrated marker oscillator is needed to measure a bandwidth of say 5 Kc. at an i.f. of 455 Kc.

I have used this method to adjust the coupling of a 455 Kc. i.f. transformer to critical (just no dip at peak of response), for a phasing type s.s.b. exciter. On subsequent check by r.f. c.r.o. measurement, I found the phase shift as near 90° as could be measured.

Crystals.—Place the crystal in series with, or in shunt with, the lead from the wobbulator to the detector. Set the rest frequency somewhere near the normal frequency of the crystal and use the widest deviation. A ringing type curve will be seen at **all** responses of the crystal within the swept range. The amplitude of the response is a rough guide to the crystal activity. Possible spurious modes, and their activity, are also indicated. Their frequencies can be measured with a marker. See Fig. 9.

Bandpass Exciters or Amplifiers.—As in receivers, the bandpass characteristics can be seen, a marker will show band edges, and the job can be tuned while you watch its response.

PRACTICAL CIRCUITS Figs. 10, 11 and 12 show extracts of three wobbulators in use here. I have shown in detail the circuit of the f.m. oscillator, with the rest of the unit in block form.

Fig. 10 is from a general purpose signal generator, tuning from 100 Kc. to 30 Mc. It has a 1 Mc. Johnson wobbulator with a sweep up to plus and minus 200 Kc. This is mixed in a 6J8, if required, with the signal generator output, giving swept signals plus and minus 1 Mc. either side of the setting of the main oscillator.

Fig. 11 is a simplified sketch of a video sweep generator using the reactance tube circuit by Helfrich to obtain a swept range of 11 Mc. to 13 Mc. After trebling, this is mixed with a fixed oscillator on 33 Mc., giving an output from 0-6 Mc. after mixing. This generator uses a feature called "offset" sweep, where in the f.m. oscillator only varies in frequency one way from its rest frequency.

Fig. 12 uses the Miller circuit in an Amateur bandpass sweep generator, to give a fundamental sweep from 1.75 Mc. to 1.9 Mc. By doubling and tripling, with bandpass transformers, output covering all Amateur bands from 3.5 Mc. to 21 Mc. is obtained at a fairly high level.

The panoramic adaptor is another widely used application of the wobbulator. In these units, a wobbulator at intermediate frequency beats with incoming signals in a receiver, and the beats are displayed on a c.r.t. The face of the tube is calibrated in frequency plus and minus that to which the receiver is tuned. Thus the panadapter displays all signals incoming within a band, as vertical "blips". The character of the blips enables identification of the signal as f.m., a.m. or c.w. Their position on the screen gives their frequency.

I have attempted to cover a very wide field in a short article, and much has had to be missed. The applications outlined are only a very few of those possible.

— • • • —

HINTS AND KINKS

FEEDER SPREADERS

Want some lightweight high grade r.f. insulation feedline spreaders? The polyethelene core from old co-axial cable is just the thing. Strip off the outer p.v.c. sheath, then the copper braid, and after cutting to required length, pull the inner conductor wires out.

Placed across Zepp and other feedlines with spacing up to 6 inches, a large number of such spreaders will weigh but a few ounces. They are easily fixed in place by drilling a small hole through at each end, then threading binding wire through.—VK2NO.

VALVE SOCKETS FOR EF50s

Many users of EF50, RL7, RL37 and similar types designed for "T" 9-pin sockets strike trouble with the spring contacts, where the sockets have been used in some wartime gear. Some people were over-generous with tropical varnish when it was decided to tropic-treat radio equipment of earlier war vintage, resulting in the gumming up of the once flexible contact springs in valve sockets. The wafer type in particular suffered from such treatment, so that impartial or incomplete contact with valve pins occurs.

The cure is to soak such sockets for an hour or so in suitable solvent—acetone or methylated spirits—according to the requirement. After soaking, work the springs free with a small screwdriver and then close them together with small pointed pliers so that they will grip the pins when a valve is inserted. —VK2NO.

NEUTRALISING 6J6s

Neutralising condensers for such finicky small capacities as those in a 6J6 circuit are easily made from 70 ohm twin lead. Start with a 2 inch length and snip bits off with wire cutters until the required value is reached.

Another idea is to use two small brass or copper tubes set in insulating material—in a screening partition—with crossed-over p.v.c. insulated flex leads adjusted for correct capacity.—VK2NO.

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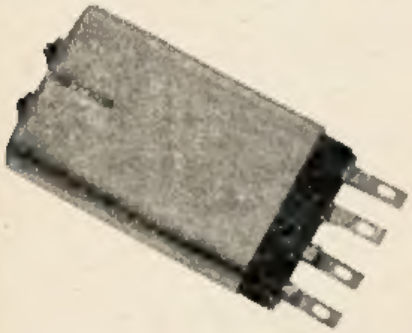
AVAILABLE FROM ALL LEADING TRADE HOUSES

Philips Miniature I.F. Transformer Type 4260

The Philips Miniature I.F. Transformer Type 4260 has been designed for receivers with an intermediate frequency of 455 Kc. where economy and space saving are of primary importance.

Two major Philips inventions, viz., the new h.f. magnetic material "Ferroxcube," combining a high ring permeability with low losses, and the high-stability, low-loss "wire" capacitors of very small dimensions, have made it possible to construct this miniature i.f. transformer of high quality.



Two parallel coils with adjustable cores of "Ferroxcube" material are each surrounded by three small rods of the same h.f. magnetic material.

All these parts together with the fixed capacitors are supported by two pieces of high-grade "Philite" material encased in an aluminium can, and are treated by a special process in low-loss compounds.

This construction ensures a very high degree of resistance against the influence of moisture and makes this transformer suitable even for very severe climatic conditions.

The fixed tuning capacitors are "wire" capacitors of 110 pF., 32 mm. long and 1.3 mm. in diameter.

In order to adjust the inductance values, small cores can be screwed into or out of each coil. These cores are fixed to the adjustment screws by means of plastic sleeves. The pitch of these screws has been chosen for quick and accurate adjustment. The sleeves guide the cores and thus prevent inaccuracies in adjustment.

The two sections possess identical characteristics, so that either of the two coils can be used as primary. This, and the fact that any of the terminals can be used as an earth connection, makes it possible to wire any set in the most efficient manner.

The unusual construction of the magnetic circuit and the very small stray capacitances of the "wire" capacitors have a favourable influence upon the characteristics of the i.f. transformer, type 4260, which has a high quality factor considering its small dimensions. The high stability and the small temperature error are of no little importance.

The dimensions of the can are such that the longest side is shorter than the corresponding dimensions of the valve holder, even in the case of the miniature valves, while the shortest side is only 10 mm. long. The filter can thus be placed in between two valves and the space it occupies is therefore reduced to a minimum. The high maximum permissible temperature (75°C.) is a great advantage in this respect.

Mounting is quickly and securely done by means of the spring, type 4261, supplied with each filter.

Technical Data:

Quality factor	100
kQ	0.9
Capacitance across primary	110 pF.*
Capacitance across secondary	110 pF.*
Average frequency drift, 20 c/s. per °C.	
Maximum working temperature	75°C.
Longest side of can	25 mm. (1")
Shortest side of can	10 mm. (13/32")
Height of can	36 mm. (1-7/16")

Mounting by means of a special spring supplied with each filter.

* Wire capacitor.

The nominal working frequency is 455 Kc. for a wiring capacity not exceeding 15 pF. Other frequency ranges can be covered, depending on the wiring capacities of the i.f. circuit. If, for instance, the wiring capacity can vary between 5 and 10 pF., the transformer can be used for a range from 443 to 463 Kc.

— . . . —

ROSS A. HULL V.H.F. MEMORIAL TROPHY

Pictured below is the Ross A. Hull V.h.f. Memorial Trophy. The inscription at the foot of the column reads:

"To perpetuate the memory of an Australian Amateur—an early Member of the W.I.A.—who devoted his life to the Amateur Cause and who pioneered the v.h.f. field during his brilliant career as Editor of 'QST' and 'The Radio Amateur's Handbook.' Born in Melbourne in 1902, his untimely passing in 1938 was a great loss to the Amateur fraternity and the world of radio communications generally."

DX ACTIVITY BY VK3AHH†

PROPAGATION REPORT

3.5 Mc. Overseas communication on this band can be stated as fair to good. **Europe** and **North Africa** broke through between 1800 and 2000z. The band was open to **North** and **Central America**, the **Pacific Islands**, and the **Far East** during the period 0900-1300z.

7 Mc. This band also showed reasonable conditions with **European** openings over the short path 1900-2100z and, rather erratically, along the long route between 0700 and 0900z. North American contacts were possible from 0600 to 1400z, while the **Far East** and **Asia** presented themselves between 0800 and 2000z. African conditions existed around 1600-2100z.

14 Mc. Conditions have been fair throughout the month. Communication with all continents was possible. Times for **Africa** were 1300-1600z and 0700-1000z, and for **Europe** 0800-1000z over the long path, and 1100-1600z over the short path. **North American** conditions existed between 2000 and 0900z and around 2100-2300z, while **Central** and **South America** were represented around 0600z and 1000-1200z.

21 Mc. Some good openings to the American continents (2200-0300z) and Europe/Africa (0800-1300z) have been reported. Generally conditions seemed to be rather changeable.

27/28 Mc. No reports have been received for these bands.

NEWS AND NOTES

As news of Antarctic work of the exploration ship, Kista Dan, and the men aboard reaches the mainland, it is a good thing to remember what an important duty expedition members fulfil for scientific research and for mankind in general. For men of the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic expeditions it means a year of complete isolation and hard, yet interesting, investigations. Amateur Radio is one of the very few ways to keep in touch with the homeland. Amateurs in the expedition teams have always appreciated such contacts and most of them looked for as many QSOs with different VK stations as were workable.

The boys on Macquarie Island are very easy to reach from the Australian mainland, due to their relatively close location. As readers will recall, during 1954 Chas **VK1AC** was the best-known representative of the Island's team. His 2240 QSOs with 86 different countries included numerous VK contacts. While sending his last VK1 DX report covering December, 1954 (see Activities), Chas asks me to convey his sincerest thanks to all VKs concerned—and it is a pleasure to do so!

The return of the Kista Dan with the boys from **Heard Island** and **Mawson, Antarctica**, is scheduled for the last week in March. **Welcome home to our fellow Amateurs: George VK1DY, John VK1PG, and Bill VK1EG.**

TI9MHB (W6MHB) plans operation on all bands 10-160 mx for the second half of February (W7SGN).

FE8AN should now be on the air from **French Cameroons.**

ZD3BFC expects to stay in **Gambia** for two years.

The **3.5 Mc. band** showed very good DX activity during January. Many countries were represented. **KP4CC, KR6LJ, KH6AFS, FA8BG, Ws, JAs,** and **Europeans** belonged to stations frequently heard and worked by VKs. A sked has been arranged between **G6YQ** and VK3AHH to investigate the notorfously difficult path G-VK3 on this band.

† Hans J. Albrecht, 10 Belgravia Ave., Box Hill North, E.12, Vic.

• Call signs and prefixes worked.

z — zero time—G.M.T.

From the Northern California DX Club and the "DXer" the following items were received:

CR6CZ is reported to be active again. **KC6CG** left Ulithi (Palau) in December. W6RRG (recently **VP7NX**) should now be around ZD7/ZD8.

QTHs OF INTEREST

Ex-VK1AC—VK3HB, Box 35, Dimboola, Victoria, Aust.

AD4BS—C/o. P.M. San Francisco, A.P.O. 733, U.S.A.

AI1BC—C/o. P.M. San Francisco, A.P.O. 333, U.S.A.

Ex-KC6CG—521 Tudor Road, San Leandro, California, U.S.A.

VP7NN—Via W3RUZ.

ZK1AD—Via ZL1DA.

ET2LF—Box 144, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

TG9EA—Box 115, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

ACTIVITIES

3.5 Mc. Chas 1AC reports VKs, and Frank 2QL adds KP4CC•, Ws•, JA3AA• and FA8BG, G3JXF, OE13USA. Chris 7XW heard a series of Ws on phone and here at **3AHH** we have: KH6AFS•, Ws•, KR6LJ, JA1CR, KP4CC, G5LP.

7 Mc. 1AC JA1CJ•, Lyell 2GW• Gs•, VQ3CC•, and VQ4AQ, ZD6BX; 2QL OQ5RU• and VQ3CC ZE2JP ST2AR, ZS7D. Laurie 2AMB JA6FC•, JA5AB•, JA6HK•, CN8BJ•, KG6FAA• and DU1DR. KR6. Neville 3APL: HL1AA• Ivor 3XR CR9AF• and 4S7NG. Fred 3YS FO8AK, JA1AFR. KR6KS, VS2CP Keu 7KM VEs• Dave Jenkin heard KH6s.

14 Mc C W 1AC KV4•, OH•, KA/JA•, LU4DMG•, VU2RA•, VK1EG•, GM3BFV•, VK1DY•, VQ2GW•, ZS1BK•, ZE3JP•, 4X4DK•, TI2RC• FK8AE• LU5AQ•, 8M•, VP9BM•, VS6CT• VS6CW•, CO2SW• G•, LA4IE•, CE7AA•, AP5TM•, DL DJ• HS1D•, CO2BM•, DU1SCS• OE5JK• ON4FL• F8LF•, GD3IBQ•, MP4QAH• OE1WB• VQ4AQ• CN8MM GM3-DHD• CE3DZ•, PY1RW• LU4HU•, KC6CG•, VS5KU• OZ7UU• PA0RLF• EI4A•, PA0SPR•, GM3GJB• FI8AU•, ZB1BF• TF5TP•, FA8IH•, FA8AN• CE3RE• KP4AZ• EI4X• LU3DAB•, PA0KWG•, ON4PA• YU1AD, ZZZ ZZ, Zhhhh PA0KWG• ON4PA• YU1AD• ET2AB•, VP8BD•, GW3FSP• PA0AO•, OE2SP•, ET3S•, ZS1RG•, OA4ED•, HC1FG•, LA4RD•, KC6ZB•, FI8BA• FK8AG•, VR2AS•, 4S7WP•, GI4RY•, YU1FT• ON4TA• 2QL VR1RO• ZD6BX•, ZM6AS•, MP4BBL• ST2AR Bill 3XM CT3AB•, VK1EG•, MP4BBL• OA4ED•, ET3GB•, OD5LJ•, KP4AZ• VK1DY•, VR1RO• PJ1AJ•, CE4AD•, VU2AL• YV5AE•, YO3RF•, HB9KB•, 4S7NX•, KG6AF• YU3AB• VR1A• and FY7ZA Noel 2APR VS2DW• KZ5GH• ZB1CH• VS9XZ•, 3AMB: OH•, VK1DY•, KP4AZ• CN8MM and ET3S. EA9AP CE3RE, SV1AZ, FI8AO, VP7NX, Alan 7CX VK1EG• VR4RO•, VP9BM• VR3A•, XE1BS•, KC6ZB•, VS5KU•, KV4•, VK1DY•, KP4AZ• VP9BL• VP9CB•, FK8AJ•, HS1D•, LU4DMG• VS1GK• CR1RO•, KA/JA•, F08AB•, ZD6BX•, OH•, VQ6CB•, VQ5EK•, KP4TF•, FA8RW•, ZM6AS• and CR6CW HZ1AB. 15PP, SV1AZ Crete 3YS FK8AB• and ET3S, Bob 4RW OZ2N•, FI8AO•, CR7BC•, ZS2EG•, MP4-BBE•, ET3LF• Jim 4Z0 HZ1AB, HB9MC, EA5BDE, CU2AL, OE5JK, VQ5EK, HB9X John 5HI ZD6BX•, ZC4RX• ZB2I•, MP4BBE•, MP4BBL•, G• GM•, GI• VQ4AQ•, 4S7•, VS1•, VS2• VS6• ZS5U•, VU• YU3BC•, OZ6QJ•, SM2CWA•, HB9KB•, DJ•, SM2BCS• Ray 5RK: VU2AX•, DL•, VS1BJ• SM4BEC•, 457•, JA•, G• Austin 5WO VQ8CB• 1200z), SV0WL• (1300z) 7KM XZ2OM• 4S7WP•, KX6AF•, CE4AD•, ZC4RX•, MP4BBE• G•, GM• 7XW: JAs• Bill 9BW: Europeans• Dave Jenkin. JA, YV5AE. KP4AZ, YV5DE, SM, LU3EL, LU6-DJX, YV5BZ, ZS2BC, GM2FHH, G, VS1BJ, VK1DY, VS1FE, KV4, FK8AE, CT3AB, DU1DO, ON4PA, KX6AF, FI8BA, MP4BBL, 4S7NX, 4S7WP, DL, ET3S, VS6CT, VK1EG.

14 Mc. Phone 1AC VS1FS•, KR6OO•, LU6-DMG•, KA JA•, KR6AZ• LU4CN•, ZC5VR•, ZM6AT• VS2DQ• KR6MC• VU2AK•, VU2RA•, OH•, VR3A• LU4DD• PY2CK•, PY5DP•, PY4VX•, LU6AJ•, LU8BS•, LU4ES•, LU1DX•, PY2JU• MP4KAC•, VS2CP•, CE3PV•, W4VUU/MM•, KR6MC• 2AHB CE3QJ•, YN1LB•, ZS2BC•, YK1AA•, MP4KAC•, VQ8AL• ZS5JM•, VP7NG• 2AMB VS2DQ• Stan 3TE KJ6AZ•, VS•, 4X4DK•, 4X4AS•, CE3PV•, ZB1CM•, KV4•, 4S7•, ZS5NZ• DL•, PA0NU•, G6•, F9HF•, GC6FQ•, OD5AB•, G• YU1AD•, MP4-KAC•, KH6• 4RW, G•, HK3PC•, VR2AS•, 5HI. MP4BAD• DU1AP•, DU1UP•, 4S7SW•, DL•, KH6•, KP6AK•, ZS6TE•, KC6ZB•, JA•, KW6BB•, HC1FG• 5WD: GM3MN•, VP8GN•, KV4•, YV5CE•, 4S7YL•, ZC4JA•, ST2DB•, ET2MI•, EA9BC•, EA8AR•, AP2CR•, VS2DQ•, Gs•, PA0ULA•, YU2DB•, 11CEI•, F9HF•, SV0WK•, DL•, 4X4GB•, MP4BBS• Jim Hunt: HK3PC, HC1FG, CX2CO, 3V8BL, ZS6AFF, ZS6BW, VQ4AQ, VS6BE, VS6DQ, KV4, 4S7FG, 4S7YL, VR3A, KP6AK, VU2RC, 3W8GT, FI8AO, 11CEI, EA3CY, EA3GF, HB9GS, HB9JZ, HB1MX/HE, ZB1CM, 4X4DK, OE13USA, OE13-LL, F9AB, F9HF, PA0ULA, PA0ULO, OE1PC, OD5AZ, OH, MP4KAC, MP4BAD, MP4BBL, YJ1AA, YU1PR, YU2DB, SU1CN, ON4OC, HZ1AB, 5M, G, DL. Dave Jenkin HK3PC.

21 Mc 1AC VK. Len 3ALD• WG•, W6• and DL1VX, MP4KAC, G3BLG. Eric 4EL OK1FU•, HA3DA•, OH3RY•, DL3RM•, G2BW•, G3BCU•, G3BXI•, VS6CZ•, HC1FG•, KH6AWK•, W6•, 5WO G3HCU•, ON4SZ• Jim Hunt. 4X4AS, 4X4AF, ZB1DK, ZB1AJX, SV0WO, HB9CV, F9HF, DU6XX, DU7BA, OE1WH, MP4KAC, G3BLG, G3HCU G3FUU, G2APX, PA0ALO, G3HZ, VU2CY, VU2ET 4S7YL, VS1FE, VS6CZ, VS6BE, W2ZXM/MM, W3HXE/MM, W3JIY/MM, W4VUU/MM, W6KUY/MM, KH6ABQ, KH6BEH, KH6SP, KA3KC, VR2CG, DU7SV, KG6GX, KJ6AZ, W6, W6, W0.

27/28 Mc. No reports have been received.

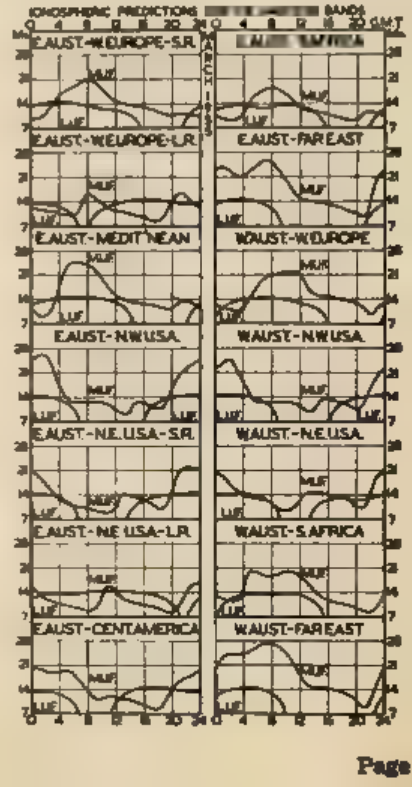
Rare QSL were received by 2QL VP7NG, ZC5RO, VP9BM, KM6AX, ZD6BX KH6BA. 2AHH HB1MX/HE, GC2FZC, VQ5CY 2AMB: IT1TAI HA5KBA, ON4IE, VS2CP, VS5RO, ZD6BX, DU7SV, VP9BM, CE3DT, 3CX: VS4RO, 3V3AN 5HI VS5RO. ZE6JJ 5WO. ZS5AW, OD5BA, ZC5VR, PY2AHS. F8EG, CO2BL, ZS5KS. 7KM• CN8GB (7 Mc.). **BERS198:** CN8-EP, GD3IBQ, HZ1MY, IS1SZU, KC6ZB, KG6-GX (3.5 Mc.), OD5AF, OQ5GU, 3U1SS, WN8QIA, XE1AX, ZK1AB, SM8CND.

Thanks to the Northern California DX Club, PJ2AJ, G6YQ, W7SGN, ZL1CI, and VKs 1AC, 2GW, 2QL, 2XM, 2AHH, 2AMB, 2APL, 3CX, 3TE, 3XB, 3YS, 3ALD, 4EL, 4RW, 4ZO, 5HI, 5RK, 5WO, 7KM, 7XW, 9BW, and s.w.l's. **BERS-198,** Jim Hunt, and Dave Jenkin.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.I.A. members are requested to promptly notify any change of address to their Divisional Secretary, not direct to "Amateur Radio."

PREDICTION CHART FOR MAR., 1955



FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

50 Mc. DX

VK1ZM, Macquarie Island, has advised that they have heard New Zealand on the 50 Mc band during January, but no details given.

In New Caledonia, **FK8AB**, listening on 50 Mc. during the period of the Ross Hull Contest, heard VK2, 4, 5, ZL1 and VR2.

VR2CG, of Fiji, contacted several Australian States including, for the first time, VK6—a distance of approx. 3,900 miles. The contacts were made on 3rd January commencing with **VK6HK** at 0034 GMT. Signals were R5 S8. VR2CG at that time was hearing all ZL districts and all VK States except VK7.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Weather conditions spoilt both fixtures of the V.h.f. Group in January, first "Operation Roof Top," and then the Fox Hunt set down for Sunday, 23rd, which was abandoned owing to rain. The trip to Mt. Kosciusko was made by Roy 2HO and Perc 2APQ as planned on 7th January without incident. The weather was perfect and after erecting the beam, setting up the gear, and making some check transmissions, retired for the night on the top of Australia (7,305 ft.), satisfied that everything was working OK and ready for the skeds on Saturday afternoon. However, during the night a westerly wind sprung up and by morning reached gale force. After spending two hours transmitting and listening on 2 mx, decided that as the weather had got worse and showed no signs of abating, with heavy storm clouds settling around the mountain, to go down to the foot of the summit, hoping that conditions would improve and we could return and continue as planned, but when lowering the beam we were unable to hold it once the guy ropes were slackened with the result it was damaged and could not be repaired with facilities we had with us.

We then decided to go through to Tumut and on Sunday morning, with material supplied by Geoff 2BQ, Keith 2ZAA and Ross 2PN, was able to make temporary repairs to the beam and then arranged to go to Kendall—a fire lookout in the State Forests, some thirty miles south of Tumut, with Keith 2ZAA leading the way as guide. About half way to Kendall, Roy remembered that we had left the tx in 2BQ's shack where it had been inspected by the gang. Within seconds of pulling up to go back, Ross 2PN arrived with the tx and a pair of trousers we had left behind in our rush to get out to Kendall. According to Geoff 2BQ, we could do without the pants, but we had to have the tx. On arrival at Kendall, further trouble developed and the "Donk" gave us a worrying hour and a half before it finally decided to go. Finally at 4 p.m. we made our first contact with Geoff 2BQ and then had contacts with Don 2RS in Albury, Syd 3CI at Nagambie. The three Tumut boys, from their home locations, made a recording of the transmissions from each of those stations. Other stations heard from Kendall were 2WH, 2AJO, 2GU and 2ANF in Sydney, together with several unidentified carriers, but to our disappointment were unable to make contact with Sydney.

Sydney stations who were operating in the field on the Sunday made several good contacts. 2ATO at Barrington Tops, 2OA and 2WJ in the Blue Mountains, 2ZW at the "Gib" Kowrai, 2ANP mobile marine Sydney Harbour all made interesting contacts with home stations as well as between their field locations.

The fifth Annual Hamfest of the Division brought a number of country v.h.f. enthusiasts to the city, among them were 2AJO, 2PN, 2BQ, 2APE, 2AXS and it was suggested that we hold a field day similar to the one held last October. This is now being discussed and it is hoped that it can be arranged to take place towards the end of March.

The first meeting of the Group for 1955 took place on 4th February, the lecture for the evening was also another first, being the first lecture given in N.S.W. by a holder of a Limited License in the person of Barry 2ZAG, his subject being "V.h.f. Antennae—Theory and Design." By means of a well drawn set of diagrams and several pieces of test gear, Barry gave many interesting details regarding the construction of antenna balancing devices and different types of feed lines, showing how to calculate the impedance for different spacing and the use of a bridge to adjust the standing wave ratio on the feeders to a minimum. A very informative and interesting lecture, Barry.

While on the subject of lectures, the one set down for the March meeting will be given by Mr Noel Millar 2AQH, entitled "Some Remarks on Detection and Suppression of Radio Interference."

On 4th February, at 8.30 p.m., the first 2 mx contact was made with Tumut. Keith 2ZAA and John 2ANF in Sydney succeeded in making contact on their first sked. Congratulations to both on a fine effort. Sydney stations are advised to listen for 2ZAA at 8.30 each night. 2WH has been putting a very good signal into Sydney during the past few weeks and was worked by Bob 2OA for the first time, also by 2AOA, 2ABZ, 2QZ, 2AJZ. We hear that 2JW at Orange has no difficulty in working 2WH at Forbes, also that 2AXS and 2APE with 2AMR at Dubbo promises to become very active on 2 mx very soon.—2APQ.

VICTORIA

Many of the v.h.f. gang took mobiles and portables away with them to make the holiday period very interesting from a radio point of view. Jack 3VZ was at Rye but worked mobile from Arthur's Seat. Alf 3IE was at Mt. Martha, Len 3LN and Laurie 3ALY were at Portarlington, Ray 3ZAE and Max 3ZAW were at Bendigo. All were able to work through to Melbourne and many interesting contacts took place. Most were mobile equipped and a lot of mobile to mobile was on the air, and all find it a really fascinating side light to v.h.f. activity.

For "Operation Roof Top," Laurie 3ALY went to Seres, near Geelong, Len 3LN to the hills at the back of Portarlington, Jack 3VZ to Arthur's Seat, and Alf 3IE to Mt. Martha. Many good contacts were made, but unfortunately none with Kosciusko owing to the blizzard, with the exception of Syd 3CI who made a contact when they were at Tumut.

The first Field Day of the 1955 season was held on 23rd January when several braved the unusually hot and humid weather and took up locations on the hills. Ian 3ZAM went to Mt. Donna Buang, Jack 3VZ to Mt. Dandenong, Len 3LN to Arthur's Seat, Ray 3KD and Norm Dench to Mt. Macedon, and Eric 3ADU to Bald Hill. A good deal of calling of VK7s took place, as Col 7LZ was on the band during the day, however no contacts were made. Col, however, has promised to make five minute transmissions on the half hour during the VK3 weekly DX session, which occurs between 8 and 9 every Thursday evening.

We welcome to the band Ray 3ZBH, Jack 3ZAJ and Don 3PO. Don 3PO, of Ballarat, has been putting very excellent signals into Melbourne and on most occasions Eric 3ANQ (140 miles from Melbourne) has been putting in excellent signals, upwards of S9.

At the V.h.f. Group meeting this month the programme of Field Days for 1955 was decided, the next one being on 6th March, then 3rd April, and 1st May, which will be the first Sunday of each month, which should make it easy to remember.

The Fox Hunts have recommenced for the New Year and will continue on the second Wednesday of each month. Associates! A tx is not a "must" for the Fox Hunt, a rx on 144 Mc. is all that is necessary and will ensure a most enjoyable evening for you.

The long week-end for the Australia Day holiday found a minor unofficial convention at Portarlington, when Laurie 3ALY, Bob 3OJ and Len 3LN camped on the foreshore. They were joined by Associate Norm Dench, Graeme 3ZAA and family, and Gordon 3TF and family on the Monday. They decided to make it a yearly event and hope that others will join in next year. On the road home Len 3LN and Laurie 3ALY worked mobile between cars and at Little River worked back to Max 3BQ, whose signals were S9 on the road. This was an approximate air-line distance of 45 miles and signals, perhaps because of the flat nature of the road, were rock steady with no sign of flutter at either end. The contact continued until a little after Werribee when Graeme 3ZAA then took up the contact and continued until both Laurie 3ALY and Len 3LN reached home.

Up to the present, no break-throughs have been reported to VK7. This is unusual as the D.C.A. Launceston to Melbourne beacon has been breaking through on many occasions during the summer season.—3LN.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

50 Mc.: Band conditions have been a complete washout for DX over the last month, nothing being heard since the first week in January. To cap the lot, the feed line on the 50 Mc. beam at 6HK has opened up somewhere along its length, which means extensive repair work. Most of the gang seem to have turned their attention to 144 Mc., so will leave 50 Mc. for this month.

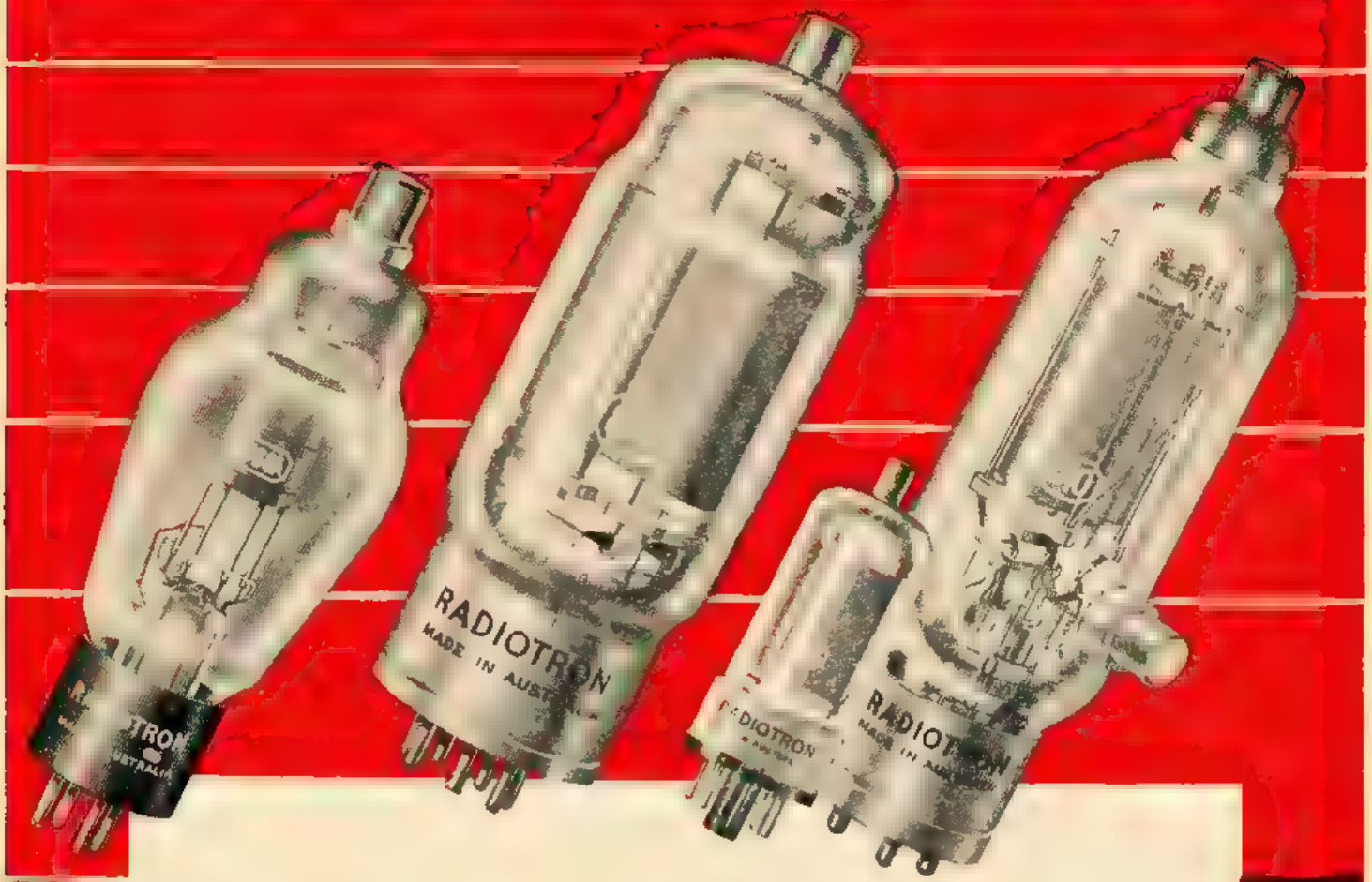
144 Mc.: 6BO spent a few days up at Bruce Rock with 6DW at the end of January and some interesting tests were carried out with Perth stations. Over several days, signals peaked to S9 both ways. It was found, however, that 6DW's old converter was considerably down on Rolo's and Don has been telling the story against himself that his converter on the 2 mx beam produced inferior signals than Rolo's converter on the 50 Mc beam! I believe that state of affairs has since been corrected! 6ZAA and 6ZAZ both made contacts with 6DW, so things are on the up and up. 6RK and 6ZAV were heard, but no contact resulted. 6ZAV is of course none other than Don Brown complete with call sign at last. Welcome to 2 mx OM! I think you must have had about the longest wait of anybody for a license.

As it appears to be the season for portable expeditions, 6ZAA and friend, Bob Elms, packed their gear and trundled off to Merridin for two or three days. Signals were heard from Perth on three occasions and a carrier heard from Merridin by 6BO at one stage, but no actual two day QSO resulted. Contact was established with 6DW over the 30 miles to Bruce Rock without any difficulty at all. Gear in use at Merridin was 6ZAA's home station off the a.c. with a five over five atop a 36 ft. piece of water pipe.

A few new call signs issued but not yet heard are 6ZAQ, 6ZAR and 6ZAS. I believe 6ZAR is doing his N.S.T. with 6ZAE at the moment, so may be some delay there. Leave at one week-end in five does not leave much time for Amateur Radio. 6ZAM should hit the breeze before long under the able "pooling on" of 6ZAA. 6ZAK is forcibly QRT for a few months, but should be back again about June. 6ZAT still to be heard about of a week-end fiddling with the xtal controlled converter. 6ZAZ has been playing around with a Command rx and converter, but rumour has it that an AR7 might be coming up shortly. That may well solve your rx problems for a while Cec. 6AW still to be heard when time permits. Believe you have to move out of your present shack before long Denis? 6WJ has been having untold strife getting the 829B to drive successfully, but should have it OK by now. A five element beam does the radiating.

A point to note. The Institute proposes holding a Two Metre Scramble sometime in June. No date fixed as yet, but further details will be advised. At the moment it looks like being on similar lines to the annual 7 Mc. event, but there may be some need to modify the scoring system slightly or perhaps the times of operation to suit the occasion. Anyway, if you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to put them forward.—6HK.

RADIOTRON POWER VALVES



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SHORT WAVE LISTENERS' SECTION*

S.W.L. GROUP REACHES TO FAR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE

We have received two enquiries regarding the VK3 Division S.w.l. Group. Firstly, from Fred Kuhns, of 47 South 14th Street, Allentown, Penns., U.S.A., and secondly, from John H. McKendrick, of 21 "Adelaide Court," Hill Road, London, N.W.8. To both you chaps we offer a big welcome to this section of the Wireless Institute of Australia.

Fred heard of us while listening to a DX programme from Radio Australia, beamed to America. John will be leaving England soon and will be visiting VK3, so hope to meet you at our meeting John. He states that DX in London is quite good, hearing mainly VK2s, although no VK3s. The gear in use at his location is an 1155 with converter for 21, 28 and 50 Mc., plus 8-9 Mc. Command and 1132 modified for 2 mx.

From VK6, Albert Angus, of Diamond Tree, via Jurdee, W.A., we received a very informative letter. Albert is studying for his A.O.C.P. and we wish you lots of luck from VK3. Albert is using a 5-valve dual wave commercial job with vibrator power supply. All the best, and many hours of DX Albert.

Information regarding awards made available by the Japanese Society will be found in this issue under the heading of Federal QSL Bureau.

REPORTS BY THE BANDS

144 Mc.: Gerrard Lane heard six VK3s. Frank Seeber, of Preston, using a modified 522 to a 5-el. beam 20 ft. high, heard 45 VK3 stations.

21 Mc.: From Geoff Morris, all signals solid at 2400-0500 GMT. VR2CO, VK9DB, AI3AH, AI3AO, AI4AA, AI2AA, W2JAC/MM (near Tokyo), and a KH6.

14 Mc.: Geoff heard on this band. CE2, CE3, CN8, DU1, EA2, EI2, ET2, F8, F9, FI8, GD2, GW3, HB9, HZ1, KA9, KC6, KG6, KH6, KP4, KP6, KR6, KT1, KU4, KX6, LU4, LU6, LU7, MP4, OA2, OE1, PA0, PY3, ST2, SV0 (in Crete), VK1, VK9, VQ4, VQ5, VQ8, VS2, VS6, VU2, W3, W4, W6, W8/MM, W8, XZ2, YU1, YU2, YU3, YV5, ZC4 (in Cyprus), ZE2, ZK1, ZL, ZM6, ZP, ZS1, ZS6, 4S7, 4X4, 5A2, 5A3.

Stewart Little, of Belmore, N.S.W., heard: CM9, KA3, KA7, KA9, KC6, KG2, KG6, KH6, KR6, KR7, LU2, OQ2, OZ6, VK1, VK9, VS2, VS6, W2, W6, W8, ZL, 4S7. Gordon J. Hepburn, of N.S.W., heard: CE3, HC1, KA4, KA7, KH6, KP4, KR6, KV4, LU6, LU8, PY4, VK1, VK9, VR2, VR3, VS2, W4, W6/MM, ZM6, 4X4. Cards received from YV5EU, YV5EA and CN8MM. At my location CE3, CN8, FI8, GI5, HC2, KR6, LU4, PK2, PY1, PY4, T1, VE1, VQ2, VQ8, XZ2, ZC5, 4S7.

Len Poynter's home location: DU1, G3, HC1, HK2, JA2, OA4, VK1, VK9, VQ6, VR2, VS2, VS6, ZS5, ZS6, ZM6, 4X4, and while portable at Lakes Entrance using AR8: CE9, CT1, DL1, EI3, FR7, KA, KC, KG, KH6, KL7, LA4, LU1, LU7, MP4, OZ7, VQ4, VQ8, VS5, ZD6, ZL, ZS6, and 4S7.

7 Mc.: Stations heard on this band were JA6, VK2, VK3, VK6, VK7, VK9, VR2, W0, ZL.

Broadcast Band, S/W DX.—From Stewart Little, of N.S.W., we received notification that V.O.A. Station in the Phillipines has been heard at S9 on 1140 Kc., running 1,000kw. between the hours of 1230-0100EST. Stewart also reports ZKP, New Plymouth, N.Z., on 1370 Kc., running 1kw. and 2YA, Wellington, N.Z., on 570 Kc.

Also from VK2, Gordon Hepburn reports Radio Ceylon at S9 on 25.2 mx. Also "Voice of Free China" located at Taiwan, Formosa, on BED7 42.1 mx, BED8 7130 Kc. and 25.6 mx, 11.735 Kc., daily at 1750 to sign off at 2100 China time (0850-1300 GMT).

IDEAS EXCHANGED HERE

Each month in this section of notes we hope to publish ideas received from our readers that would be of interest to other s.w.l's. throughout VK land. The ideas can be in the form of better reception hints to modifications to your gear for listening.

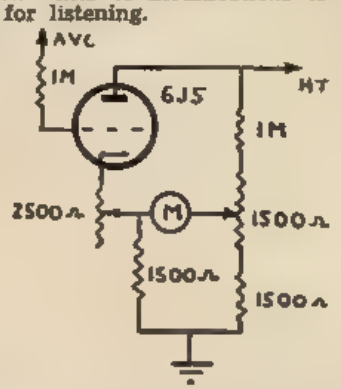

Fig. 1.—S Meter Circuit.

The idea for this month is from Bill Leeming, VK3ALW, and I have personally tried this and it is a beaut.! For some time now I have been after a good S meter circuit for an AR8, but was unsuccessful until Bill came along with this one.

The circuit is shown in Fig. 1. and there should be no difficulty in making it operate. The valve is an ordinary 6J5 and the potentiometers 1,500 and 2,500 ohms must be ganged together and of the linear type. The meter can be of the 0-1 Ma. type, or if more sensitivity is required an 0-500 micro-amp. meter can be used..

* John Wilson, 37 Rayment St., Alphington, Vic.

S.W.L. CONTEST

This event is now in progress, from 1st January to 30th March. This is your last month for receiving those QSOs as the Contest closes on 30th March at 2359 EST, so get to it and make those rigs run hot.

All QSL cards must be sent to "Contest Committee," S.w.l. Section, W.I.A., 191 Queen St., Melbourne, C.1, by the last post on 30th June, 1955. Results will be announced over VK3WI in second week in August at 1130 hours. For full contest details, refer to the January issue, page 12, of "A.R."

DIGEST OF DX TIPS

3420 Kc.—VUD, India Request Programme at 11.45 p.m. (all times EST)
3850 Kc.—EQO, Teheran, Iran—commencing at 12.30 a.m.
4900 Kc.—Colombo, Ceylon 12.15 a.m.
7180 Kc.—JOB2, Tokyo, Japan—English News at 1000.
7405 Kc.—Radio Herondello, Hanoi—10.30 p.m.
11830 Kc.—VUD, Dehli—3.15 p.m.
17805 Kc.—DZ18, Manilla—1.30 p.m., News at 8.0 p.m.
17870 Kc.—GRP, London—8.30 p.m.

FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

FEDERAL

Fed. President: W. R. Gronow, VK3WG.

Fed. Secretary: L. D. Bowie, VK3DU, Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

QSL Bureau: R. E. Jones, VK3RJ, 23 Landale Street, Box Hill, E.11, Vic.

DX C.C. Manager G. L. Morris, VK3BZ, 80 Eighth Street, Parkdale, Vic.

NEW SOUTH WALES

President: Jim Corbin, VK2YC.

Secretary: Harry Hickin, VK2ACH, Box 1794 G.P.O., Sydney

Meeting Night: Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Gloucester Street, Sydney.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Ted Whiting, VK2ACD, 16 Louden Street, Five Dock.

QSL Bureau: J. B. Corbin, VK2YC, 78 Maloney St., Eastlake, Sydney (Inwards and Outwards).

Zone Correspondents: North Coast and Tablelands: Noel Hanson, VK2AHH, Ryan Ave., West Kempsey, Newcastle: Ron McD. Stuart, VK2ASJ, 98 Dunbar St., Stockton, Canfields and Lakes: Harry Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock, Western: W. H. Stitt, VK2WH, Cambijowa, Forbes, South Coast and Southern Eric Fisher VK2DY, 2 Oxlade St., Warrawong South Western: J. W. S. Edge, VK2AJO Wallace St., Coolamon; St. George: Chas. Coyle, VK2YK, 84 Carlton Cres., Kogarah, Western Suburbs: Barry White, VK2AAB, 33 Flavelle St., Concord.

VICTORIA

President: G. Dennis, VK3TF.
Secretary C. Gibson, VK3FO.
Administrative Secretary Mrs. G. Pickering, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melb'ne.
Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melb. Technical College.
Divisional Sub-Editor: K. E. Pincott, VK3AFJ, 14 Dunscombe Ave., Ashburton, S.E.11.
QSL Bureau. Inwards—Graham Roper, VK3ZB, 26 Lucas St., South Caulfield, Vic. Outwards—Frank O'Dwyer, VK3OF, 190 Thomas St., Hampton, S.7, Vic.
Zone Correspondents: Central Western: W. J. Kinsella, VK3AKW, Magdala, Lubeck, South Western: W. Wines, 11 Redford St., Warrnambool, and E. Giddings, VK3ANQ, 8 Nelson St., Warrnambool; North Eastern: A. D. Buchanan, VK3FD, "Booroondal," Wahring; Far North Western. M. Folie, VK3GZ, 101 Lemon Ave., Mildura; Eastern: C. J. Arnold, VK3AJA, McAlister St., Stratford, North Western: C. Case, VK3ACE, Cumming Ave., Birchip; S.w.l. Group: John Wilson, 37 Rayment St., Alphington, N.20.

QUEENSLAND

President: Harold Murphy, VK4HM.
Secretary: W. A. Young, VK4YA, Box 636J, G.P.O., Brisbane.
Meeting Night: First Friday in each month at the Royal Geographical Society Rooms, Ann Street, City.
Divisional Sub-Editor J. T. Hope, VK4XL, Royal Parade, St. John's Wood, Ashgrove.
QSL Bureau: Inwards—J. Files, VK4JF, Wanda St., Buranda; Outwards—Miss Clair O'Brien, 93 Jardine St., Stafford.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President: G. M. Bowen, VK5XU
Secretary: R. G. Harris, VK5RR, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide. Telephone J 1151.
Meeting Night: Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.
Divisional Sub-Editor: W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 10 Victoria Avenue, Rose Park.
QSL Bureau: Geo Luxton, VK5RX, 8 Brook St., West Mitcham, South Aus. (Inwards and Outwards).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: F. A. T. Tredrea, VK6FT.
Secretary: J. Mead, VK6LJ, Box N1003, G.P.O. Perth.
Meeting Place: Perth Technical College Annexe, Mounts Bay Road, Perth.
Meeting Night: Third Tuesday of the month.
Divisional Sub-Editor D. E. Graham, VK6HK, 110 Edinboro St., Mt. Hawthorn
QSL Bureau: Jim Rumble, VK6RU, Box F319, Perth, West. Aus. (Inwards and Outwards).

TASMANIA

President: L. E. Edwards, VK7LE.
Secretary: W. G. Tait, Box 371B, G.P.O. Hobart.
Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the W.I.A. Club Room, 147 Liverpool Street, Hobart.
Divisional Sub-Editor: L. E. Edwards, VK7LE, 126 Strickland Ave., Hobart.
QSL Bureau: Ray Calvert, VK7RT, Box 371B, G.P.O., Hobart. (Inwards and Outwards).
Zone Correspondents: Northern: M. A. Chaplin, VK7CA, 56 Trevallyn Rd., Launceston; North Western, R. K. Wilson, 11 Cunningham St., Burnie, Tasmania.

FEDERAL

RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT FEDERAL SECRETARY

As a result of business and health reasons, the Assistant Federal Secretary, Mr. John Rice-Oxley, has found it necessary to tender his resignation from this position. John VK3AKO has been a most active member of Executive and it is with regret that his resignation is accepted. The duties of keeping a master copy of the Call Book, together with dispatch of material for overseas awards, were expeditiously carried out and directed. John has indicated that at a later date, when his present commitments are lightened, he will again be available for any duties connected with the furtherance of the W.I.A.

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR

Federal Executive has been advised that Mr. George Moss has again been elected to the position of Federal Councillor for VK6 Division for 1955-56. George, as VK6GM, is one of the older members of the Division and his wise council is much appreciated by those closely associated with him.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Under the direction of the Federal Council of the Wireless Institute of Australia, Federal Executive hereby gives notice that it is intended to alter the Federal Constitution (1947) of the W.I.A. as follows:

Section 29(a) By inserting immediately after the word "Proficiency," the words "or Limited Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency."

LIST OF SUCCESSFUL AMATEUR CANDIDATES

The following is a list of candidates who were successful at the examinations for the Amateur Operator's Certificate and Amateur Operator's Limited Certificate held on 13th July and 12th October, 1954

New South Wales

E. A. Druitt, 43 Canal Street, Griffith.
*W. H. Harder, Flat No. 6, Royal Bldg., Argent Street, Broken Hill.
J. E. Thompson 23 Light Parade, Bar Beach.
M. G. Datson, 84 Ocean Street, Woollahra.
*W. R. Cox. 44 Park Road, Hurstville.
*J. B. Goodman, 29 Boolarong Road, St. Ives.
*S. D. Russell, "The Nook," Oakes Road, West Pennant Hills
*P. G. Watson, 9 The Crescent, Homebush.
*W. T. Boon, Bunnerong Road and Franklin Street, Matraville.
G. J. Lee, 1183 Victoria Road, West Ryde.
J. W. Bork, 42 Queenscliffe Road, Manly.
I. A. Dunnicliff, 69 Duff St., Broken Hill 8th.
*B. C. Fleck, 20 Yoolooma Street, Griffith.
E. C. Savage, Box 631, Griffith.
G. V. Randall, 6 Chisholm Street, Inverell.
*P. W. White, 7 Allenby Road, Orange.
C. E. J. Sims, 2 Verlie Street, Merylands.
L. W. Squires, 27 Fletcher Street, Bondi.
F. G. Barron, Flat 2, "Exeta Manor," 78 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.
E. H. T. Burt, 35 Paul Street, Auburn.
D. Sellars, 80 Sandringham Street, Sans Souci.
A. R. J. Topp, 33 Western Road, Parramatta.
*L. W. Cook, 159 Bronte Road, Waverley
*A. H. Wass, 1 Cannons Parade, Forestville.
J. W. Cohen, 27 Hinkler Crescent, Lane Cove.
*J. P. Folkard, 10 Clovelly Street, Watsons Bay.
A. G. Isaacs, 43 Tupper Street, Merrickville.
*W. J. Lark, 34 Church Avenue, Westmead.
J. W. Porter, 11 Telepia Avenue, Caringbah.
†J. H. Hansen, 70 Robey Street, Maroubra.

Victoria

*A. W. D. Wilson, "Bundorant," Glenthompson.
R. S. Beckett, No. 8 Married Quarters, School of Signals, Balcombe.
K. E. Semmler, Box 36, Murtoa.
*I. C. McKellar, "Carramar," May Street, Elsternwick.
G. A. R. Pearce, 207 Prospect Hill Road, Surrey Hills.
P. C. Ryan, 10 Seymour Grove, Camberwell.
*R. A. A. Foot, 43 Munro Street, Ascot Vale.
*B. M. Stares, 17 Daffodil Street, Wendouree West, via Ballarat
L. H. Welter, Main Street, Merrigum.
G. LeH. Hipwell, 10 Beach Avenue, Elwood.
R. J. Hilderbrand, 133 Simpson Street, East [redacted]
H. T. Holmes, 12 Victor Street, Sunshine.
J. R. Fryer, 424 Plenty Road, Preston.
C. Luckman, 2 Milton Street, Canterbury.
M. K. Tulloch, Fernshaw Road, Healesville.
*D. H. Francis, 5 Noel Street, Ivanhoe.
*H. S. A. Lilburn, 31 Albert Street, Mitcham.
*D. H. V. Rankin, 1379 Malvern Road, East Malvern.
*D. G. Walker, The Lodge, Ormond College, Carlton.
*R. J. Harrison, 7 Tiernan Street, Footscray.

Queensland

*D. L. Bates, 150 Lytton Road, East Brisbane.
*Dr. I. C. Morrison, Avon Lodge, 171 Riding Road, Hawthorn.
*N. A. Roberts, 41 Kent Street, Rockhampton.
*D. A. Fraser, P.O. Box 131, Warwick.
*G. L. Lang, C/o. Warwick Broadcasting Co. Pty. Ltd., Warwick.
*J. W. Kickbusch, C/o. Mrs. Nolan, 50 Moreton Street, Norman Park.
*J. Fursdon, 56 Brook Street, Windsor.

[redacted]

M. M. Harding, 121 Collins Street, Broadview Gardens.
*R. G. Henderson, 14 James Street, Southwark.
*E. J. Kenny, 5 Perth Street, Ferryden Park.
*E. W. Menkins, 20 McKenna Street, Kensington Park.
*E. M. O'Neill, 51 Nelson Street, Harcourt Gardens.
F. A. Eastick, C/o. Post Office, Alice Springs.
*L. M. McGrath, 14 Tallara Ave., Mt. Gambier.
*B. C. Jallett, Norton Vale, Hynam.
*G. P. Tuck, 57 Cowra Street, Mile End.
*R. W. G. Wehr, 20 Kintore Avenue, Prospect.
*E. B. Stephenson, 4 Piccadilly Circus, Colonel Light Gardens.

Western Australia

*H. Iffla, 33 Boulder Road, Kalgoorlie.
*A. R. Deverell, 20 Streatley Road, Rivervale.
*M. R. Meharry, 96 Kalamunda Road, Kalamunda.
*D. A. Meadowcroft, 132 Eton Street, North Perth.

Tasmania

*J. R. Milway, Cottage 68, Tarraleah.
*L. J. Hodkinson, Wellington Street, Longford.
*W. Grewling, A117, Bronte Park.
R. D. Nicholls, 30 Pearl Street, Wivenhoe.
*P. E. Blundstone, "Barclay," Whitemark, Flinders Island.
D. G. Cartwright, 38 Mary Street, Launceston.

Territory New Guinea

‡C. W. H. Rasmussen, C/o. Australian M.A.F. Building, Wewak.
‡R. A. Sutherland, Central Avenue, Rabaul.

* Qualified for Limited Certificate.
† Special Examination.
‡ Special examinations held at Port Moresby and Rabaul.

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FEDERAL QSL MANAGER

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER

Hereunder are the listener awards made available by the J.A.R.L., Box 377, Tokyo, Japan.

H.A.C. (Heard All Continents) will be awarded to listeners submitting an Amateur Station QSL for six continents. Five I.R.C. to be included with application.

S.W.L.-A.J.D. Proof of having heard the 10 Japanese call areas (10 I.R.C.)

S.W.L.-W.A.J.A. Proof of having heard 46 Japanese prefectures. (10 I.R.C.)

S.W.L.-J.C.C. Proof of having heard 100 cities in Japan (10 I.R.C.).

The W.I.A. are at present negotiating with the J.A.R.L. for an agreement as to the acceptance of certification in lieu of having to forward QSL cards to Japan for these awards. Until the negotiations have been completed, all applications for listener and transmitting awards must be made direct to the address stated above.

The League of Radio Amateurs of Mozambique in forwarding best wishes for 1955, express the

hope that "during the year that now begins all Amateurs of the world shall work in complete co-ordination, having in view the cultural possibilities of their emissions and the spirit of fraternity and friendliness which should characterise Amateurs throughout the world."

A novel QSL comes from HK3FV. The board is a thin shaving of wood. On the obverse in characters of velvet fabric is the call sign, while on the reverse is printed all the details of the QSO and the equipment and achievements of the owner of the station. Unique and costly.

Frank Ansar, ex-VK3WZ, advises under date of 15th January, that he expected to leave Momote on posting south around 24th January. After a period of leave in his home State of VK3, he expects to resume duty at Laverton around April. Frank has been off the air since December and has spent the time prior to departure in constructing a portable rig. Frank bemoans the reception difficulties in Momote, having an 11,000 volt power main running parallel with one leg of his antenna and not too far distant from it. Here's to a fine spell at leave Frank, and we hope to hear you on again soon, preferably under a VK3 call sign. Meantime let me have your VK3 QTH please.

QSL traffic for January, 1955, showed a marked rise, indicating that possibly we are commencing to climb out of the trough of the cycle.

The writer has been on vacation at Warburton. Had some thousands of contacts during the fortnight, often knocking over seven and eight at a time. Unfortunately the contacts were of a physical nature and consisted of slapping at the myriads of bush flies that would not take any other form of notice to quit. Thought I had solved perpetual motion at one stage. Apologies for any delays to correspondence during my absence.

Bill Sawyer, VK4KJ, of Thursday Island, will be remembered by old timers when it is mentioned that he was VP1WS, of Suva, for a fair period. Bill was the first Amateur to operate in Fiji and naturally was a much sought-after station. Writer ran skeds with him in the early thirties, having 60 or 70 contacts. Bill has held VK4KJ for nine years and uses an AT5 with 750 volts on a pair of 807s. Antenna is a 260 ft. long wire. If memory serves me right, Bill originally hailed from the Hurstbridge area of Victoria.

Any VK stations who contacted OD5AF, of Lebanon, and who have not received a QSL will be interested to know that the card can be obtained from G3KCE, the operator being the ex-2nd op. of OD5AF, and is also ex-MP4QAJ. Mailing address is 54 Bassett Road, London, W 10, England.

In a 3.5 Mc. QSL to BERS186, Bob Morris, W7JLU, says he would welcome more VK a.w.l. reports on his 80 metre signals. W7JLU runs a Viking tx with 150 watts input.

BERS185, Eric Trebilcock, has just returned from a 3,000 mile car trip. Journeying was completed in 28 days. Besides punishing the car, Eric did not sit down very long in any spot. Says now will be busy for a month painting the house. After the Lord Mayor's cart comes the—tumbrill.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

The January meeting of the Wireless Institute of Australia (N.S.W. Division) was held in the presence of a large gathering at Science House, Gloucester Street, on 28th January. The President, J. Corbin, 2YC, opened proceedings and welcomed the visitors who had already arrived from country centres to attend the Convention. Those so welcomed were 2XP, 2XZ, 2PL, 2BQ, 2MZ, 2AQF and 2EL. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary, Harry 2ACH.

A report was given regarding the very successful Xmas Party organised by George 2AGO, and it was stated that a final profit of £31 resulted from the function. Members are reminded that it is the intention of the Social Committee to organise more functions and are further reminded that the theatre party will be held at the State Theatre, Market Street, Sydney, on Thursday, 10th March. All those desirous of being present are asked to contact George 2AGO and get those applications in for tickets. News of further activities will appear in your Bulletin each month. George gave a detailed report on the future activities of the Social Committee and it is pleasing to learn that a Ladies' Auxiliary has been formed, the members being Mrs. Williams (2ARW), Mrs. Wilson (2AGO), and Mrs. Hickin (2ACH). These ladies will need all the assistance others can give, so we suggest that anyone interested will contact the Committee.

The lecturer for the evening, C. Bardwell, although he had only just arrived from Melbourne in time for the meeting, took the rostrum and delivered an extremely interesting lecture on the "Development of Marine Transmitters." Ces traced the evolution of Marine Communications since about 1914 in an extremely capable manner and dealt in detail with the many systems which had been used pointing out their advantages and disadvantages. Slides were used extensively to illustrate the lecture, and finally a hearty vote of thanks was proffered to the lecturer in recognition of his fine efforts. This vote of thanks was moved by Vaughan 2VW.

The N.S.W. Amateur Radio Co-operative Ltd. has got away to a fine start, and the meeting authorised the N.S.W. Division to take up 150 blocks of shares in the Co-operative, this decision was unanimous. All members are asked to contribute, the sooner the money necessary is received, then the sooner will the objectives of the Co-operative become a reality, to the benefit of all members, city and country alike.

The meeting closed at nearly 11 p.m. and concluded out on the steps in the usual manner.

ANNUAL HAMFEST

The next day, Saturday, 29th January, was the date set for the 1955 Annual Hamfest, the location being again at the R.A.S. General Office building at the Showground. A tx was installed during the forenoon by Lt. Com. Greg Thrum, 2ANP, and was operating till nigh on 9 p.m. on 80, 40 and 20 mx and made many successful contacts. For those interested, the antenna was a random length of wire held up by one of the nearby stands. Registration and a general get-together took place from 1.30 p.m. and from the outset it was noticed that there was a goodly crowd of Amateurs in attendance, the final figure was approx. 100. Owing to the unforeseen absence of the first speaker for the day, five lecturettes were given by various members and the prize for the best lecturette was awarded to Barry White, he received a microphone donated by 3ML.

Following was a series of lectures given by members of the Police, Army and Air Force on the Rescue and Intelligence Emergency Centre and Organisation. Wing Com. Pickard pointed out his particular organisation tied in with the whole scheme and further illustrated how valuable was the assistance rendered by Amateurs in times of emergency. He was followed by Supt. McAuley who gave a most detailed and interesting discourse on the whole organisation, what it was formed for, what it does and what it hoped to achieve with the assistance rendered by Amateur Radio in the past. He stressed that messages should not at any time be sent unless authorised by the local Police and gave illustration of the chaos and duplication which can be caused in this manner.

The following speaker, Major Cox, also spoke of his part in the scheme of things as did Sgt. Glasscock, of the Police Dept., and added that in areas where crystals have been deposited at the local Police Station, that any Amateur can apply to have those crystals for the purpose of tests with VKG and VKG3 on Sunday at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. All local Police authorities have received instructions on this matter and will be only too pleased to co-operate with the Amateurs in the strategic areas. Flt. Sgt. Frank Hine, 2QL, wound up the lectures on this matter and finally the President thanked all participants for their attendance and the interesting material they had given. A tape of this was made and will be forwarded on the country circuit in the near future. All are urged to hear it and comments will be appreciated by the Council.

Following de-modulation of an 18-watter, a Dutch auction was held resulting in a win by 2EL of a 2E26. A number of competitions were held during the afternoon, resulting in prizes being won by 2PN, 2BQ, 2YB, 2AHA, 2ACD, 2AAB, 2BG, 2QS, 2MB and 2VW. A prize donated for the Amateur who had travelled the greatest distance was won by W6EYJ. The Ladies' Committee had of course been in operation all afternoon attending to the needs of the inner man, and it appeared that there was a never ending supply of cakes, sandwiches and cups of tea. Our thanks go out to Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Corbin, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Walters for their efforts, as do the thanks of all go to Don 2ASW and Leon 2AGJ for their tireless efforts in the dispensary of the 18-watters.

A further lecture was given on Antenna Matching by Bob Winch, 2OA, and following further activities in the form of a Dutch auction and Pick-A-Box, films were shown and the Convention concluded at a late hour.

Further thanks are made by the Council and members to all who played a part in the organisation, and possibly we may be permitted to single out, apart from those mentioned previously, 2YB, 2AWQ, 2EL and our compere, Ray 2ARW.

SOUTH WEST ZONE

Zone Officer Jim 2AJO, of Coolamon, was of course in the big smoke for the Hamfest and passed these notes along for the zone. The main items of interest this month has been the Xmas Party and Social held at Griffith on 14/12/54. No visitors from other zones or the city were present, but the OMs, XYLs and YLs, to say nothing of the small fry, had a really good time.

A further new call is current in the zone—2CS, Evan Savage, located at Griffith. 2AJO and family are holidaying at Warrawong, the domicile of Eric 2DY and Peggy Stewart 2PL, Lila and family are also holidaying at Woolongong, so it appears that a miniature Hamfest is taking place. Lyn 2AQE, of Coolamon, has moved QTH to Wagga, Lyn reports however that it will be some time before he is active from the fair city as house building takes priority. Zone representatives to visit the Convention will be 2AJO, 2PL, 2AXO, Assoc. Bruce Fleck, 2BQ, 2AQF, and 2PN.

During the month the Tumut gang had a visit from 2APQ and 2HO who made some contact from the Tumut area, both on their way to Mt. Kosciusko and return, stations operating at the time included 2ZAA, 2BQ, 2PN and 2RO. Let us hope that before long the QRN will abate on 80 metres so that the zone ragchew will again be in operation.

NORTH COAST AND TABLELANDS ZONE

Zone Officer Noel 2AHH reports a little news from his area. 3UF was recently visiting Taree, while Jack 2ADT has been touring and took in Muswellbrook, Newcastle and Sydney prior to the return to Inverell. Incidentally, Jack now has a shack at Urunga, so no doubt will be spending quite a lot of his time by the sea. Crieff 2XO, who now resides at Coffs Harbour, is holidaying, but we have no reports of his movements. Ted 2AVG has moved again, is now located at Port Macquarie. We do not know whether he is on the air, but all interested are requested to contact Ted or 2AHH in order to book accommodation for the Urunga Convention at Easter. It is imperative that this accommodation is booked as early as possible as the organisers must have a reasonably good idea of the numbers to be expected. As yet I do not have any details of the programme to hand (please note Ted), but we could suggest that you bring along a two mx shooper as there will be competitions along those lines. So, turn up in your hundreds, bring the XYL, YL and the kiddies, all are assured of a full and enjoyable Easter. Don't worry about the Pacific Highway as it is quite OK, ask 2AHH he was through this way last month.

George 2AUR no sooner got his call than he moved to Sydney; he is located at Denistone and operates very regularly on 7 and 14 Mc. Alan 2ASO is now in the big smoke and is a P.M.G. monitor at Middle Head, lives at Cammeray.

HUNTER BRANCH

From Les 2AOR comes the month's news. The monthly meeting of the Branch was held at the Tighes Hill Technical School on 14/1/55. 21 members and associates being present. A notable visitor present was OH1NY Jim 2AHT, a new member, was welcomed by the President Lionel Swain, 2CS. A very interesting film was screened, "Pipeline to the Clouds," and this in turn was followed by a lecture by Angus 2IQ, who spoke on "Some Fundamental Aspects of Antennae." This lecture, delivered in Angus' inimitable style, provoked much discussion and many questions were asked of the lecturer.

Jim 2ZC attended the "Radio Founders' Day" outing to Glenlawn Dam as the Hunter Branch representative. Associate Rodney Prout, who is also the very able Branch projectionist, sat for his A.O.C.P. recently and all hope the results are favourable to him. Ron 2ASJ, who, owing to medical advice has to maintain another three months' silence, in a letter sends the following information. Jack Hamilton visits Ron each Tuesday to act as Ron's second operator. BERS-185 was in Newcastle recently as were 2ADT and XYL and paid a visit to Ron as well as other shacks. Mr. Charters also visited Ron on behalf of Jim 2AJO.

Six members of the Hunter Branch made the trip to Sydney for the Hamfest, 2AHA, 2AHT, associates Gordon Sutherland and Dave Ellesley, and 2AOR. Dave acted as Hunter Branch representative at the general meeting on the Friday night.

The next meeting of the Hunter Branch will be held on 11th March, 1955, at 8 p.m., the location being the Tighes Hill Technical College. The lecturer for the night will be decided, so for further information Listen to the Sunday morning broadcast. In addition, listen for 2AWX each Monday at 8 p.m. on about 7093 Kc. for news of the Hunter Branch doings.

METROPOLIS

Apparently nothing has been occurring in this area, as we have not received any reports this month. No doubt many were recovering from the activities at the Showground. 2ABO

is better in health again, and will be heard always bawling out, with the assistance of Alf 2AVL. 2AJL is now in new location and getting settled in; Bill does a lot of listening on 14 Mc. and gets a few contacts with 9OK, who will be in Aussie in a few weeks on furlough. Another one to visit Sydney is 9DB who will be here by the time you read these notes.

2FA is well again and has the tx to his liking, still reaches out to the nethermost parts, only worked a TF recently at 9 p.m.—must have a good beam! 2ACD also gets out with the same type of beam. 2AAB now has superior modulation on account of the new mike. 2APT, 2IX, 2AEK, 2QP, 2NJ and others natter nightly, Jim 2AEK is so sick of it he gets on the band at 7 a.m. some days. Another one heard more of late is 2AGU, knew the bug would bite harder Harry.

2GE is putting a nice bit of r.f. out now, will be another one for DX soon. 2ID in between feeds of sea food is heard again on 14 Mc. but does most of it on 21 Mc. Lots of calls in this area have not been heard of late. 2ACI is very busy but gets on occasionally. 2AGW has had trouble, but the worst is over we hope. 2JP enjoying his retirement, drives around a bit but is having a poor year all round what with the tennis, cricket and all that. 2ACH is now on 7 Mc.; nice to hear you, Harry. 2AFE busy on 21 Mc. still. 2AQH doing very well also on that band as is his next door neighbour, 2AKV. 2AZN has a very fine home designed rx nearly finished; his cobber 2FM is holidaying at Macksville. 2ACN heard several nights a week now, as is 2ADL—traps permitting. 2OQ doing nicely with the beam. 2AYH had a visitor recently, 2APS from Tamworth, who was bemoaning that he never heard the Sydney stations; couple of nights after his return home, the short skip was in to Tamworth, wouldn't it?

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VICTORIA

In reply to many requests, mainly from VK5, I'm again spending time which I can ill afford to run off a few notes for this month.

The February meeting of the largest and best Division in the Commonwealth was held in the usual place to the usual gathering on the second of the month. After opening the meeting, the President handed the meeting to Syd 3ASC, the speaker for the evening. Syd spoke on the use and abuse of hand tools. Most of those present envied the assortment of tools Syd produced. 'Tisn't everybody who can run to more than one screwdriver, one pair of pliars, a soldering iron and Mum's scissors. Syd is expected to give another talk later in the year when he will go a step further and discuss power tools. He will then be way out of my class. Here is where I take up trains. After a hearty vote of thanks, the meeting adjourned to pay homage to Lady Nicotine.

On resuming activities for the evening, E. Bond, 3ABX; G. Sutherland, 3ZAA; M. Williams, 3ZAW; and C. Taylor were admitted as members of the Division. Welcome gentlemen and please come to the meetings every month.

A sub-committee has been formed to look after our affairs during the Olympic Games. 3AHH and 3TE at present comprise the members of this committee. No doubt in time it will be expanded, so if you can spare a little time, keep them in mind and offer your help.

Some little time was spent deciding the programme for the next meeting. First it was to be a Swap Night, then a Picture Night when the YLs, XYLs and families would come along. Then somebody suggested that we have both on the same night. Some wag was all in favour. He promised to bring his XYL in and swap her—for what I did not learn, but his offer clinched the argument. No Swap Night! In short, bring your family to see "Blue Ice," a film taken in the Antarctica.

Many thanks to the chap that bemoaned the fact that meetings do not get enough advance publicity in these columns. Well fellows, I get my information from the same place as you—VK3WI on a Sunday morning—if I feel like dragging myself out of bed to listen to the "News for country members and s.w.l's." To elaborate, I usually go back to bed after listening to VK2WI. I feel sorry for the chap who has to write the script for VK3WI, but surely after 35 broadcasts everybody knows the Call Book is available at the rooms, etc., etc. What! You didn't? Well you know now.

Just to prove I do hear the broadcast occasionally, I heard that moves are afoot to form a Hi-Fi Group within the Division. Now I recall the editors of a prominent radio journal deprecating the trend of the radio enthusiasts to audio and I'm with 'em. As I see it, you're more likely to woo your transmitting members to the audio ranks than the audio ranks to us. After all, most of them know next to nothing of the technical aspect of the business. Their theory—if it costs more, it must be better. If you doubt me, get amongst a few of them like I did.

Can see I'd better soft pedal a bit or I'll be bucking authority again and will cop a letter written on stiff paper. After all, if I stick my neck out often enough the axe must fall. Just to show that I'm not always again Council, I support the idea of a Papua-New Guinea Division whether they have 25 or 250 members. The main thing is to have them in the W.I.A. Good for you fellows for wanting to be in it.

By the time this hits print we will have a week to the National Field Day. For those not going portable, put the rig on the air and give the portables some encouragement.

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

The dogs bark and they say that Peter 3APF is temporarily losing interest in Radio, but should return in due course. However, Ken 3KR is keeping up his Radio, although neither he nor Lex 3AIL have had much luck on the DX. Col 3WQ is throwing in a little gardening as well. Although Vic 3ABX has not been seen lately, Hugh 3AHF is about in good form, but Jack 3PF is probably not able to go beyond the VL3QB net. Opportunity has not been made to contact our Wangaratta contingent—Jim 3JK, Howard 3YV, and Jack 3AKC. Henry 3HP has been busy working on his Rural Fire Brigade net, and Des 3BP has got quite an array of aerials now, but Ron 3AQG has not been accurately tracked this time.

Coming over to Shepparton, Associate Jim Muntz, of Nathalia, was recommended to contact Les 3ALE for some good practical advice on his construction problems. Johnny 3ACK, Murray 3HZ and Brian 3ASF have not been heard of recently, and, no doubt, Alex 3AT has all his time earmarked these days. Alan 3UI is going along with his constructional work, and Keith 3JC is building a new house, so placed on his block to allow the erection of a half-wave 80 mx antenna. Syd 3CI has been having some more success on 2 mx at time of writing. George 3GD had his place of business "burgled" recently. It is not known how Tom 3TS is getting along with his a c

Chas 3ACW has not been seen since he was spotted in Nagambie, and Des 3CO has been left in peace lately, and probably Frank 3ZU is also bowling quietly along his way. One of the foundation members of our zone in the post-war period, Doug Tacey, is down in the last call sign amendments list as 5DW, along with Doug who was listed as 7IJ. Our Associates Vern and Clarry in Cobram have also been left in peace, and up to the beginning of February Jim has not had any fires to fight. It is unfortunate that it is so far to Tongala, because that is the home of Stan 3AGT.

EASTERN ZONE

There is little in the way of Amateur activity this month. It would appear that some of those who were most eager to get their tickets a few years ago have now lost interest. If the notes on this zone appear a little brief, it is because there is nothing much happening, or if it does, one does not hear of it. George 3ABN was seen playing around with pumps, pipe-lines, etc., keeping the local cow cockies happy, he also says he hopes to get back on the air before long. Leo 3SG was making big plans for an 813, but they seem to have fizzled out as he has not been on the air for months. It's about time we heard something from Bert 3BB too, or are you too busy turning out sausages these days? Jack 3FK should have his AR88 in action before long and we expect him back on the bands grabbing the choice DX then.

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

Greetings, gentlemen, your worthy or unworthy scribe, whichever you deem appropriate, is this month none other than that bewhiskered fugitive from a barber's shop, VK1AC, who has been shedding much perspiration in the Wimmera heatwaves. Very sudden on the constitution after the cool sea breezes on Macquarie Island I can tell you. Anyway fellers, we had a mighty trip and I must take this opportunity of thanking all the zone members who so kindly kept in QSO with me during the year; it was certainly a first-class morale booster, with special thanks to 3TA 3AKW and 3AFO. I think all the other expedition members who used to regularly visit the radio hut enjoyed hearing the zone activities almost as much as myself.

Unfortunately the ex-VK1AC rig is still in store at Melbourne, but have hopes of getting it here shortly, enabling me to join in the zone hook-ups signing 3IB once more. This time Lubeck is only a temporary QTH and will be QSY to Dimboola about the middle of March.

The reason I was hauled into the job of compiling this month's notes is the fact that Bill 3AKW has gone galavanting away on holidays on a sea trip to Sydney—lucky blighter. I'll give you a lesson in hanging over the rail if you ask me kindly Bill! Incidentally, Bill must be congratulated on being selected once again to represent the Country Week's Cricket Team in Melbourne. Harold 3AX has just returned from three weeks holiday in Melbourne. Not very much news about the zone as we are a little out of touch with people at the moment. Was present at 3AKW's during last week's 80 mx hook-up, but apart from 3DP and 3AKP at roll call, old man QRN seemed to have the upper hand.

Byron 3TA had the misfortune to lose his new beam in a bad storm recently, tells me it was such a mess he just carted it to the local dump and tipped her in—rotten luck Byron. I know you put a lot of work into that beam too, anyway, don't be too discouraged, that simple dipole used to put a pretty potent signal down amongst the penguins.

Funny story of the month. 1AC walking down main street in Horsham. Youngster leans out of window of parked car with the remark, "G'day Father Christmas!!" Grrrr such is the price of fame!

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QUEENSLAND

The attendance at the January meeting was very poor, and owing to the lack of a quorum, only the business that was urgent was dealt with. The Institute is now using the downstairs hall so seating accommodation is plentiful.

When these notes reach you, we will be calling for nominations for Council, so please submit your application duly signed, moved and seconded, as we will be looking for new councillors. I have it on good authority there will be quite a few of the old councillors not nominating this time.

Remember! Early in April for the Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner, so keep it in mind and make your attendance at either or both of these functions a certainty. We will welcome those of you we have not seen in years.

The Contest Committee informs me 4SF and 4PQ got certificates for their R.D. scores and 4WH got a host of gear, being the VK4 who scored nearest to the average of all logs points submitted by VK4-VK9.

April will be the month for the VK4 Contest. The first prize being an open order for £2/2/- and holding the Shield for 12 months, which is at present held by VK4PQ, so what say some competition for him this year. Second prize has not been decided, third prize is three 5-pin ceramic plug-in coil formers.

The rules are as last year, 1 point per contact, 1 contact per band per station, and at least five contacts between any two stations working again on another band. Logs to be in by the 31st May. Official log sheets would be appreciated though not a necessity. These can be obtained from the Secretary at a nominal price of 6d. a dozen.

Remember, we still want your ideas for an Annual Convention. To date we have had only two letters submitted and as a lot of thought will have to be put in to it, the more ideas the better.

This Division wishes to note the death of Mr Herb Core, ex-VK4HC, who was accidently killed on 20th December at Capalaba while making frequency measurements on a tx. Herb, though a grandfather, was a relatively young man, being 47. He was an Acting Radio Inspector, and a candidate at the Recent R.I. examination. He relinquished his Amateur license some four years ago.

TOWNSVILLE JOTTINGS

A well attended meeting of the Townsville Amateur Radio Club was held at the residence of Graham 4BX on Thursday, 13th January, and augurs well for the club this year. A welcome by the President 4RW was extended to Max Newell, ex-Woomera Radio Club, Bill Hanss, ex-VS1FD, Joe Hanran, ex-VK9JH, and Ray Bosanko, all of whom were admitted to the club.

The Secretary 4WH handed out forms for membership to W.I.A. and it will not be long before all are active members of the Institute. Fee for this year was fixed at 10/- for all members.

An apology was received from our guest speaker due to his sudden departure for Victoria on transfer. The Secretary has arranged for guest speakers for the next three months and promises more to follow. Ray Bosanko and Allan 4PS have offered the loan of tape recorders for play back of any taped lectures that may be received, so any club having material on tapes, we would be grateful for the use of same and every care will be taken and postage both ways will be met. Please let the Secretary 4WH, or the President 4RW, know as we are often on the band.

Activity on the bands this month for DX has been very poor due to the erratic skip conditions prevailing. The far northern gang are trying to establish a 144 Mc. link—Cairns to Mareeba and Atherton. Also some of our members are trying to do the same between Townsville and Charters Towers as 50 Mc. band was a washout on two Sundays recently when attempts were made between the two points.

4EJ giving 21 Mc. away and now on the gentlemen's band. 4JH trying to hear sigs on 50 Mc., but so far nothing doing; also trying to contact 4RW on 144 Mc., but no dice due to converter at the latter's QTH not geeing properly according to Joe. 4WH still gives phone a go when no DX on c.w. 4BX now using his bandswitching job with an f.b. signal. 4LR re-building his low powered rig—8w. 4RU again promising to stage a comeback—another New Year's promise. 4EL not heard lately, must be due to "Them Thar Hills." 4RW has applied for N.Z.A.R.T. W.A.P. Award, phone and c.w. Quite a number of the other boys still inactive or at least not heard on the band.—4RW.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly general meeting of the VK5 Division (the Division that sets the pace) was held as usual in the clubrooms to a very representative gathering of members and visitors. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Scott Little, 5AF, who chose for his subject, "Macquarie Island." As ex-1AF, he spoke with some authority on his subject. Scott took a wise angle on his talk, he did not make any attempt on a technical discussion, but merely gave his audience an interesting resume on his activities during his sojourn on the island. Possessing a very dry wit and a real down-to-earth outlook on his subject, it naturally followed that he soon had the interest of his audience and held it right up to the finish of his enjoyable talk.

The talk was illustrated with some interesting shots of the island and its inhabitants which were projected on to the screen by the speedi—eppiedi—eppeediasco—well anyway they were projected on to a screen by a gadget which added considerably to the overall interest of the talk, and the vote of thanks proposed so ably by Brian 5CA, together with the long list of questions at the end of the talk, gave ample indication of just how well Scott put his share of the evening's entertainment over.

Just in passing, I worked with Scott's father, Sammy Little, in the old Central telephone exchange quite a few years ago and it was remarkable just how much likeness there was between the voices of the two Littles. Several times during the lecture I only had to close my eyes and listen to Scott, and I could have sworn that his father was in the room and telling us one of his many Sunday School stories for which he was noted. Of course, I was too pure to listen! Pardon the digression, but I could not help alluding to the likeness, because it struck me so forcibly.

There was very little general business for the evening, although Luke 5LL did have a few words to say on the matter of the certificates being awarded to Council members for their services, and possibly these few words were the means of swaying the members to vote against the opinion of the Council on this matter, which was that certificates were unnecessary, both from a financial and a personal angle. However this is all to the good, and I would like to see more members get up on their feet at the meetings and have their say on all matters connected with their hobby. It serves two purposes; one, that it shows a genuine interest in the business side of the monthly meetings, and two, that it does not permit the Council members to settle back into a state of complacency under the mistaken impression that because nobody gets up at the meeting and voices a different opinion, or perhaps criticism, that therefore Council is always right.

At this point of the monthly notes I usually give the list of visitors present at the meeting, but unfortunately I lost mine and when I rang Gordon 5XU he did not have his list, and when I rang several others, they had also lost their list or in some cases had never had a list. This is downright in-efficiency and I will have to shake them all up.

Arthur 3AWO spent a few days at the caravan park of Kingston Park. I did not hear him on the air, but understand that he contacted quite a few of the locals on 40 mx. Don 5DX was another one heard on 40 mx from Aldinga, working portable recently. He was in contact with Luke 5LL when I heard him and his signal was out of the box considering his power at the time. Luke 5LL lost one of his poles in the recent big blow and as yet has not replaced it. Incidentally, OM, I was having a little skip with the kiddies at the Picnic and your XYL joined in with me. When my feet became entangled with the rope and we were forced to stop, much to the annoyance of the said kiddies, your XYL said to me, "That will get your fat down mate!" Would you be so kind as to point out to her that it is not fat—it is muscle, I repeat, muscle!

Frank 5LK will receive the 1954 award for the best hider of lights under bushells. My reason for saying this is because a little dicky bird tells me that he has been putting quite a lot of his spare time in coaching candidates for the A.O.C.P., with a deal of success, if all is to be believed. Nice work Frank, and I apologise for putting the spotlight of publicity on "your good deeds by stealth campaign," but one hears so seldom of people doing something for nothing, that I feel it merits publicity.

Charlie 5CR is not enjoying the best of health these days and we all hope that he will soon be on his feet again. The last time that I heard him was on 28 Mc. and he was saying then that he was feeling a bit off colour. The last time that I contacted him was pre-war and was on 20 mx. Cheers Charlie and keep the old chin up. Quite a number of the old timers are thinking of you and often.

SOUTH EAST AREAS

The usual monthly meeting of the S.E. Areas was held on Thursday, 27th January, and there was a good roll-up of members with only two absentees—Claude 5CH and John 5JA. The principle attraction for the night was of course the R.D. Trophy which was well on display and all those present were able to make a detailed inspection as well as photographing it from all angles. The meeting unanimously agreed that a vote of thanks be passed to the members of the VK5 Division for forwarding the trophy so promptly for exhibition at Mount Gambier during its City Celebration Week, and whilst on this subject, it was on view all the week in a window of one of the local stores, arousing much interest and comment, together with favourable publicity for the grand hobby of Amateur Radio.

John 5FD brought along to the meeting an A.W.A. small boat tx and rx which it was proposed to use with the Robe fishing fleet. He gave a detailed description of this interesting piece of equipment and at the conclusion of his well enjoyed talk, the third most important item of the meeting was brought forward—to wit, supper. This item was despatched in record time and as usual finished up as an exciting race between Col 5CJ and Stuart 5MS to see just which one would have the last piece of strawberry cake with the most strawberries adhering to it. Excuse me for a moment, I have to go outside, ever since the Xmas meeting, the words strawberry cake affect me in a peculiar manner. The meeting continued until all present became hoarse, and finally closed down at an hour when all good people are fast asleep, tucked up in their couches of virtues. Most of those present having no couch, and no virtue, were not dismayed at the lateness of the hour!!

5TW has very little to report on his doings on the air this month although he was heard on the unmentionable band occasionally. Tom appeared at the meeting carrying undisputed evidence of his trip to Portland and appeared to have been out in the sun to good effect. 5MS has managed to keep his skeds on 40 and 20 mx, but band conditions have reached an all-time high this month and this, coupled with the fact that Stuart has been busy with the Amateur Radio publicity side of Celebration Week, meant that he had very little time for DX or what have you.

5KU reports that he has finally recovered from the visit of the stork and that the new arrival is doing extra well. There is no doubt about it Erg, we fathers have to go through a lot, although for some reason or other all doctors claim that they have never lost a father, yet! It's our fortitude and ability to suffer pain in silence that accounts for it I think. Don't show this to your XYL, Erg! She might give a sneering laugh like mine did when she read it, it reminded me of a hungry crocodile which had just finished sharpening its teeth. Fairly gruesome, I can tell you.

5CH has been somewhat on the sick list this month and has only been able to do a little work on his new shack. Claude has been heard on the unmentionable band once or twice also, but has not been feeling much like radio. Hope all is well Claude. 5CH is planning some building work, the nature of which is still in the secret and drawing board stage as yet. However Col. is something like me, very slow to start, but brother, when we start, we never know when to stop!! Of course our XYLs will tell you different, but don't take any notice of that, they see things through their hearts, whereas we see things through our heads. Whoops! I can't see, something just hit me on the scone!!

Quite a lot of traffic passed through Mount Gambier this month including Charlie 3AUP and family, Roy 3ND and family, the XYL of Jack 3IP and her brother-in-law Bill 3BL, Ray 3ATN and YL, and ZL4JA and ZL4MY. The last mentioned boys are on a hitch-hike tour of VK and really felt important when they hit Mount Gambier and found the City Band, the Governor, the Mayor, and a welcoming committee lined up apparently to greet them. However they were soon deflated when they woke up that it was all bcause of the Celebration Week festivities. It goes without saying that all of these visitors found their way to the QTH of Stuart 5MS and were given their share of the famous South East hospitality. Fancy having all those VK3s in the same area at the same time, all it would want would be Pincott to bob up and Mount Gambier's cup of misery would be full to overflowing. What am I saying? I was President of that Division once. All right Barbier, sit down, I can prove it. I will admit it was not for long, but you can't take it away from me. The only member of the W.I.A. that has been President of two Divisions at the same time. That's me, and proud of it!

A visitor to the S.E. meeting this month was Brian 5ZAB who has a steel tower 80 feet up in the air, a 522, and lots of enthusiasm. He is hopeful of contacting distant places on the unmentionable band. He also passed on the information that Wally 5BP now has a new "750" Eddystone rx and hopes to be more active in the future.

COUNCIL

Two members of the present VK5 Council did not seek re-election for next year, but aside from this change the set-up will be the same in VK5 for the coming year. Once again no new nominations were received from the membership and therefore it is to be assumed that the present members of the Council are satisfying the VK5 Division. Whilst this state of affairs may be quite OK on paper, it is somewhat a disappointing outlook for the future of the Division on the executive side. The present Council contains no newcomer to Amateur Radio and has been that way for many years. I said recently to Doc 5MD, "Don't you ever get tired of being on the Council?" His answer to me sums up the position perfectly, "Quite often, but where can the replacement come from, nobody seems interested."

We used to have a simple way of recruiting new members to the Council; if anybody stood up at the meeting more than once and had something to say, we used to grab him and talk him into the Council. Nowadays they are too shrewd, they don't even get up and speak, possibly they are a wake-up.

The two members to resign from the Council were Charlie 5ON, who was handling the Divisional station 5WI, and Joe 5JO, who has been an active worker for VK5 for more years than I care to remember. We are sorry to lose these two solid workers from the Council, but realise that home responsibilities in the case of Charlie, and a desire to get among the boys at the meetings in the case of Joe, must be accepted. Both agreed to help Council if at any time their services should be required for small jobs, which is at least better than was at first thought.

Talking of Councils and Committees reminds me that the following will comprise the members of the Advisory Committee for 1955: Dougal 5BY, Clem 5GL, Howard 5XA, Brian 5CA, Cec 5CD and Scott 5AF. All in all a good selection, and one that will temper judgment with understanding and common sense, which after all is all that the average Amateur asks in his Advisory Committee.

Still talking of Councils, even if you are not listening, I cannot help but notice the good fellowship and even tempered atmosphere that exists in the VK5 Council these days. I am not suggesting that previous Councils were not the same, but at the moment even those warriors of general meetings of two or three years ago, Jack 5JD and Warwick 5PS, never even as much as cast a dirty look at each other across the Council table these days. In fact Doc 5MD was heard to say at a recent meeting that it was a wonder that these two did not kiss each other when they met. Be that as it may, I can only say that still waters run deep, although the lion has been known to lay down with the lamb, even if the lamb kept his engine idling in top, just in case!!

WOOMERA RADIO CLUB

Due to the Xmas season very little activity has been reported from the Woomera district and with most of the members of the Woomera Radio Club being absent on their annual holidays, the club station has been in a decided inactive state.

Ray 5FF has been down in civilisation for a while and has enjoyed quite a number of interesting contacts with the local boys about town. This is the first time that he has had an opportunity to operate his own rig from

his own quiet corner of the world and finds it a lot different from having to go to the club-rooms whenever he wanted to get airborne. Ray's eight-cylinder bomb, "Leaping Lena," is running sweeter than ever these days and he is considering putting a clamp tube on her. John Gluyas has taken a brush and a couple gallons of paint to his R1155 and it is almost ready to hear those CTI signals that Ray works. It is suggested that it looks more like a fire extinguisher than anything else!

Len 5OC, who was the first President of the Club, and is now domiciled in the city of virtue, received at the general meeting from Ron 5FY a super-special ash tray, with a high back-to-front ratio, suitably inscribed from the Woomera Club members. Glad to hear it Len. I like to hear of good work being appreciated. Ron 5FY, the genial Secretary of the Club, has been down to the city and has been spending some of his time at his old stamping ground, to wit, Gawler. He tells me that he was glad to meet all the boys at the meeting and his portable rig admirably served the purpose for which it was built, enabling him to have some good contacts with his old mates Les 5AX and Compton 5EF.

Just prior to Xmas there was a gathering of the Gawler Net (5AX, 5EF and 5FY) at the shack of Compton 5EF, and great was the ear-bashing thereof. Arising out of this gathering I am pleased to report that 5EF is more than satisfied with his W filter, it is working better than expected, he hasn't worked one yet, and this coupled with the fact that Compton is having a little trouble in resonating his beam (when the reflector is organised the director is not, and vive-voce—commonly known as push-pull), then it can be seen that his sense of satisfaction wants looking into, or do they get that way in Gawler? 5AX, better known as five clank able clank xray clank, the clanks being the old-fashioned water pump outside his shack door which modulates his signal almost as well as Les does himself, now has his 100w. g.d. oscillator working extremely well and is putting in a good signal in quite a lot of places. It is rumoured that a new antenna is to be erected at King Street, which will be the antenna to end all antennae. This is where I came in, so I think that I will go out again.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The Annual Picnic of the VK5 Division was held last month at the Birwood Oval and over a hundred of the local boys, their XYLs, their harmonics and visitors turned up despite the threatening look of the weather in the morning. The afternoon turned out a winner and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

I did intend to write a little about the Picnic, but time caught up with me this month and I am afraid that we will have to rely on the dear editor to give us a little space in next month's magazine for a short(!) description of the grudge cricket match between the c.w. men and their natural enemies, the phone men.

Joe 5JO, together with his XYL, his mother, his sons and daughters, and their boy friends, all worked flat out to make the Picnic the success that it undoubtedly was, and Frank 5MZ, Gordon 5XU, Luke 5LL and many others did their best to entertain the XYLs and harmonics, for whom the Picnic was really intended. This was the first Picnic that I have been able to attend and I can truthfully say that I am sorry that I missed the others, and I, in company with all those who attended, will be looking eagerly forward to the next, and what better praise can you get than that.

Just in closing for the month, in case that Pincott has been pumping the locals. The ball that Les 5AX bowled that shattered my wicket in the cricket match was deliberately bowled straight at the wicket. Can you get anything lower than that?

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

At the January meeting of the Division, those present were treated to interesting discussions on two widely divergent subjects—namely, "The Construction and Operation of the Collins 2KV3 Transmitter," by Tom 6MK, and "The Evolution of the Modern Hearing Aid," by Mr. Murray, of a city firm.

Tom's subject was one of great topical interest and the tx on display aroused a deal of comment, especially on the way in which the whole thing was compressed into one small cabinet. Mr. Murray's talk included the demonstration of several hearing aids up to the type incorporating transistors, which were really remarkable for their compact construction and low battery consumption. A far cry from the first electrical type of aid invented in the late 19th century which, as he calmly announced, weighed a mere 2300 lbs! A portable type later produced was "capable of being easily carried by any able bodied person," so said the manufacturer. It weighed 500 lbs! A hearty vote of thanks to the speakers was moved by 6GH and carried with acclamation.

A new call heard on the 7 Mc. band has been 6KL from Byford, with a good signal. Noticed the call sign of Bill Woodley, 6DJ, cancelled in a recent list. Conditions got the better of you OM? 6VK, of Northam, was a new member welcomed at the January meeting. Vic had made the trip down especially for the evening. Another application form seen recently was from 6JR, of Kellerberrin. Though not heard on the bands as yet, he has been licensed for some time.

A strange voice on 7 Mc. one Sunday morning turned out to be Harry 6ZZ stoking up the rig again and getting out well to 6KJ, of Albany. 6RU now sports a fine new beam array for 14, 21 and 28 Mc. Saw a photograph of it taken by floodlight at night, and it certainly shows that that is the only way to take photos of any array. Every detail stands out in the absence of sun glare as in a daytime snap. Occasionally hear from 6KU, but only per land-line and not on the air. It's about time you came good with the beam and gear Ray, as they tell me conditions are on the improve.

6BO has been dashing about the south-west lately, last showed up in Bunbury where the gang were due for a visit. Believe 6OR's tower has now resumed a vertical position with the aid of a jack and much pushing and pulling. 6KO was contacted recently on 7 Mc. for the first time. What's this I hear about 3.5 Mc. and 6MD Kevin? 6SF/MM on M.V. "Silver Fin" has been active on 7 and 14 Mc. with good results. Using an 8 ft. whip and 10w., John QSOed a G on 14 Mc. phone while off Rottnest. When told the details, the Britisher thought he was talking to a pirate as the signal was so good! Must be the clear get-away from the boat.

6GU has been unusually quiet of late, but has found time to dash off an article for the magazine. 6EH has been tied up with chess—of all things—but is still promising that article for "A.R." Best you do something about it before the Editor gets to hear of it Ted! 'Tis rumoured via Associate Kevin Bickwell that Tom 6BP is gradually moving towards activity again. Conditions must be on the up grade—heard 6WZ and 6EL on 40 mx on Sunday morning! Two Geraldton stations on at once! 6WT has had a few air tests with his new modulator and 100w., but has had a bit of bad luck with a modulation transformer that greedily absorbs power.

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TASMANIA

The February general meeting was held as usual at the clubrooms and was very well attended. Bob 7OM was in the chair in the absence of the President and the lecture for the evening was very ably delivered by Bill 7FY on the subject, "Wartime Coast Watchers."

Business for the evening was mainly on the subject of the coming Annual General Meeting and Dinner, the arrangements for which are being handled by Bill Tait and Ted Evans. It was originaly intended to hold the meeting on 12th March, but it was found that this date clashed with the Northern Zone meeting and dinner, and so it was decided that the date would be **26th March** instead. Every year the dinner committee has had much trouble in estimating the number of members who will attend and so this year a deadline has been set, after which it will be very difficult for latecomers to get a booking. So if you intend being at the dinner, notify the Secretary or 7FJ, or myself, immediately, if not sooner—remember, no booking, no dinner! This does not apply so much to country members as it is appreciated that members who have to travel long distances to attend will probably not know if they will be able to make it until the last moment.

The usual ship to shore communications for the rowing events at the Royal Hobart Regatta were again provided this year. Operators this time were Mark 7MH, "Ack" 7DA, Ken 7KA and Tom 7FM. Two mx equipment was provided by yours truly.

Queenstown has been suffering from an influx of Amateur talent recently. On one evening at the shack of Len 7LS, there was ZL4JA and ZL4MY (hitch-hiking around Tasmania), VK5WY who is studying mining in Queenstown, 7ML and 7LE who were just visiting, and 7BR and 7LS. The trend of the conversation can, of course, be imagined and a supper of hot scones was served up by Joan, XYL of 7LS, including a special scone for Max 7ML who is on a diet because of an excess of condition caused by too much fishing and high living. Personally, I've never seen him looking better although I was present when he weighed himself on one of these talking machines—the voice said, "One at a time please!"

Harry 7BR turned up at his sweat shop recently with the tale that his bed collapsed beneath him at three a.m. that morning. Brack has taken much leg pulling ever since, but he still maintains that he was asleep and that the bed was rotten with borers!

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. 7OM, who are this month (February) celebrating their Silver Wedding. All the best to you Bob and Madge.

NORTHERN ZONE

For our January meeting 7FM brought along his BC348 rx and very ably explained its workings. This culminated a series of rx evenings in which 7GM displayed his 12-valve double conversion home-built set, 7LX his modified double conversion "640" and 7XW his AR7. During January another 2 mx hidden tx hunt took place; first home was the Geoff Crompton, 7LX and Jim Wells group, who spent an anxious 10 minutes locating the tx after arriving at 7XW's car. They were greatly concerned in case 7GM and 7BQ were suddenly to come around the corner and beat them to it. The latter team also located the tx but Associates Percy Woodruff and Kevin Banfield became entangled with 7LZ's 2 mx sigs and went off in the wrong direction. Col was transmitting for the VK3 2 mx field day (looks as though the chaps will have to learn code to identify the station). A night hunt was scheduled for February, but results are not yet to hand.

7CA has been very busy with v.h.f. radio-telephone links and little time for the Amateur side. 7RK still pounding the "Ivories," also hasn't been able to brush the cob-webs out of the rig. Col 7LZ very busy chasing 6 mx DX and arranging 144 Mc. listening watches in case of break-throughs from VK3. Haven't seen much of Henry Solomon since his return from Melbourne; haven't seen any stray VK3 trams here either, so no shrewd gent managed to sell some of them to Henry.

7PF has settled down in a new QTH with nice v.h.f. beam already up and working. The neighbours think Peter is getting in early for t.v. Les 7AM still very much interested in "Manx" Norhous, but not heard on the Amateur bands. How about a come-back Les, we would like to hear your cheerful voice on 7 Mc. again. 7RB we do occasionally hear, but it's a case of "all's quiet on the Invernay front" with 7TE.

There are now several newcomers in areas around Launceston, and to them we extend the "welcome" sign and would like to see them at our meetings. DX conditions in the Launceston area improved considerably in the latter end of January, particularly on 7 and 14 Mc., although 21 Mc. appeared to be dead. Much of the improvement was due to the efforts of 7LZ and 7PF in locating bad sources of noise which the Hydro Dept. cleared up. About this time plenty of ZLs could be heard on 3.5 Mc.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Trades Hall on the second Friday in March, that is the 11th. As our attendance at recent meetings has not been as good as could be wished for, how about making an effort for this important one and coming along? After all, the zone is only what members put into it.

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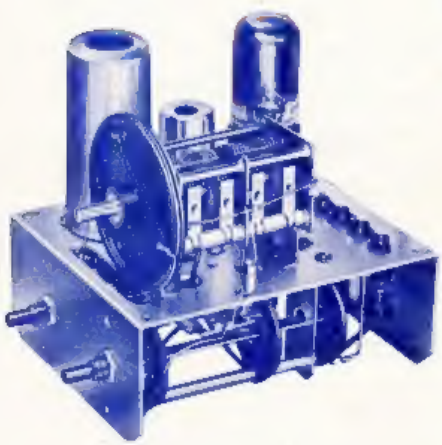

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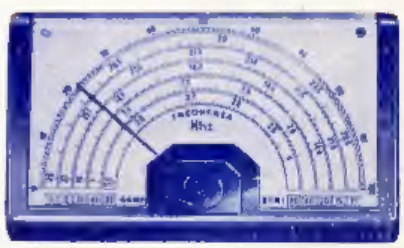

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